

COUNTY BOROUGH OF ROCHDALE



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

For the Year ending 31st December, 1946

JOHN INNES, M.D., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health
and School Medical Officer.

ROCHDALE :
E. WRIGLEY & SONS LTD., PRINTERS, ROCHDALE.

CONTENTS

I.—PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT:

	PAGE
A.	
Ambulance Facilities	11, 12
Ante-Natal Clinic	18, 19
Anti-Toxin and Sera	33
B.	
Bacteriological Examinations	12, 13
Birch Hill Hospital	14, 15, 16
Blood Transfusion Service	16
C.	
Cancer	10, 11
Child Life Protection	22
Closet Accommodation	27
Clinics	12
Consultant Services	19, 20
Common Lodging Houses	27
D.	
Day Nursery	22, 23
Drainage and Sewerage	24
Diphtheria Immunisation	18, 31, 33
Dental Service	16, 20
Diphtheria Incidence and Deaths	31, 33
E.	
Emergency Maternity Unit	20
F.	
Food Supply, General	28, 29
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	28, 29
Factories Act, 1937	27
H.	
Health Visitors	17
Hospital Accommodation	14
Hospital Recommends	16
I.	
Infant Welfare Centres	17, 18
Infectious Diseases	30—36
Institutional Provision for Care of Mental Defectives... ..	11
L.	
Laboratory Facilities	19
M.	
Maternal Mortality and Morbidity	21, 22
Maternity Home, Birch Hill	20
Maternity Outfits	20
Marland Hospital	17, 37
Midwifery Service	20, 21
Milk and Food Assistance Scheme	18
N.	
National Health Insurance	6
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children	18
Notification of Births	17
Nursing Homes... ..	13
Nursing in the Home	11
Nuisances, Removal of	25
O.	
Offensive Trades	26
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	22
Orthopædic Clinic	18
P.	
Poor Law Relief	6, 11
Post-Natal Clinic	18, 19
Public Cleansing	24
Puerperal Pyrexia	21
Pathological Laboratory	12, 13

R.	PAGE
Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919...	26
Rivers and Streams	24
S.	
Sanitary Inspection	25—27
Shops Acts, 1912 & 1934	26
Smoke Abatement	27
Standard Maintenance Allowance	37, 38
Statistical Summary	5
Springfield Sanatorium	17, 39
Scabies Order, 1941	29, 30
Sanatorium Treatment	38, 39
T.	
Tuberculosis—Morbidity, Mortality, etc.	33-39
Tuberculous Milk	28
Tuberculosis Dispensary	37
U.	
Unemployment	6
V.	
Venereal Diseases	39—43
Vital Statistics	5, 7—11
W.	
Water Supply	23, 24
X.	
X-Ray Examinations	19
APPENDIX, Tables I.—III.	
... ..	44—46

II.—SCHOOL MEDICAL REPORT:

C.	
Child Guidance Clinic	56
D.	
Debility—In-patient Treatment	59
Dental Clinic	52—54
Diphtheria Immunisation	58
E.	
Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic	59
Employment of Young Children	60
I.	
Infectious Diseases	51
M.	
Meals	60
Medical Inspection	48—50
Medical Inspection—Cost	60, 61
Minor Ailments Clinic	51
Memorial Home	59
N.	
Nursery Schools	57, 58
Nutrition	50, 60
O.	
Open Air School	52
Orthopædic Clinic	58
S.	
Scabies	49
School Nurses—Work of	51
Speech Clinic	54—56
Staff	48
Sub-normal Children	60
Superannuation Act, 1937	60
U.	
Uncleanliness	49
V.	
Vision	51
Voluntary Associations—Co-operation with... ..	60
APPENDIX, Tables I.—VII.	63—65

**To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee of
the County Borough of Rochdale.**

GENTLEMEN,

The first portion of the Report is statistical in character. It shows a birth rate which is increased compared with the rate last year and remains well above the average for the previous ten years. The live birth rate of 17.8 is the highest recorded figure since 1921. The death rate is decreased as compared with the previous year and stands below the average for the preceding ten years. Although the infantile mortality rate is above the record low figures for 1943 and 1945 it is still well below the average for the ten years 1935—1944 inclusive. During the year there were three maternal deaths resulting in the rate of 1.90 per thousand live and still births, a figure in the region of half the average of the figures for the previous ten years.

Infectious diseases showed an increase as compared with 1945 and that increase was more than accounted for by whooping cough with 215 cases as against the previous year's 73. Scarlet fever cases were about half those of the previous year. An epidemic of measles began in November and December which was ultimately to reach its peak in February of 1947.

The total deaths from all causes maintained a fairly steady level throughout the year except for three small peaks in the middle of January, at the end of January and at the end of December.

The year cannot be said to have been one marked by considerable advances in the Department's work, although it was not entirely barren of improvement. The issue in May of the National Health Services Bill imposed upon the Committee a policy of waiting. This policy may be described in two aspects. So far as the hospital services were concerned it appeared clear that future planning on any large scale would not be possible and, so far as the services to be run in the future by Local Health Authorities, the Bill did not contain sufficient detail nor any surety upon which definite planning could be based.

While it is true that the Bill became an Act in November with comparatively little alteration it gave concrete guidance only on the negative side and positive planning had still to wait for the issue of various Regulations based upon the Act.

The Health Committee did consider capital expenditure plans at the request of the Central Government, but it cannot be said that these were capable of consideration on a realistic basis, either from the point of view of the ultimate responsibility for the services or from the point of view of the availability of the necessary materials and labour.

At the Municipal General Hospital discussions were continued on the improvement of the services rendered. Dietitians still not being available little progress was made in the improvement of the feeding service, but the removal of the restrictions on the movement of medical staff and the establishment of hospitals made it possible to improve and extend staff both on the Senior Resident grade and on the Consultant grade.

Negotiations were also commenced to acquire premises for a preliminary training school for nurses and it is hoped that this may reach fruition in 1947.

Although the operation of the Cancer Act, 1939 was postponed from time to time during the war and the Act is ultimately largely repealed by the National Health Service Act, 1946, discussions were continued with other Local Authorities, mainly in the south east of Lancashire, with a view to formulating a joint scheme for the treatment of cancer based upon the Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute. By the end of the year this had resulted in the formulation of the East Lancashire and East Cheshire Cancer Board. It is hoped that the deliberations of this Board will not be wasted when ultimately a scheme is prepared for this purpose. In the meantime an Interim Scheme for Rochdale patients was prepared between the Local Authority and the Rochdale Infirmary, which Scheme was approved by the Ministry of Health.

Towards the end of the year all preparations were made for instituting a scheme for the supply of Domestic Helps in cases of sickness, infirmity and in the absence from home of mothers responsible for the care of children. This Service was actually commenced in January, 1947, and will be the subject of a report next year.

In summary the year may be regarded as a good one from the point of view of the health of the public of Rochdale. This conclusion is, however, limited by the criteria on which it is based, these are such factors as the death rate, the infantile mortality rate, the incidence of infectious diseases, and the Tuberculosis incidence and mortality.

Unfortunately, we have as yet very little means of assessing the general level of fitness of the population. It is hoped that in the future it may be possible to obtain statistics of minor departures from health. These will be much more valuable as an index of immediate results of changes in social conditions than are the more remote results represented by general and special death rates.

Once again I am glad to have this opportunity of recording my appreciation of the manner in which the members of the staff have carried out their duties throughout the year. Both the staff and myself appreciate the happy relationships which continue to exist between the Health Committee and the Department. I have to acknowledge the support and encouragement which I have continued to receive from you, Mr. Chairman, the Acting Chairman and the Members of the Health Committee.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

John Lums.

Public Health Department,
Rochdale.

1/9/47

Medical Officer of Health
and School Medical Officer.

STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1946.

Area (in acres)	9,553
Registrar-General's Estimate of Civilian Population, mid-year 1946	85,200
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1931)	25,487
Estimated sum represented by a Penny Rate	£2,240
Rateable Value	£573,138

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births. —Legitimate	1,412 ...	719 ...	693
Illegitimate	109 ...	57 ...	52
	<u>1,521</u>	<u>776</u>	<u>745</u>

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated civil population 17.8

Still-births 54—Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 34

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths	1,272 ...	648 ...	624

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated civil population 14.9

Deaths from Maternal Causes 3.

Puerperal Sepsis — }
Other Maternal Causes 3 } Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 1.90

Death rate of Infants under one year of age (75 Deaths).

All infants per 1,000 live births 49
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 46
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 81

	No. of Deaths		Rate per 1,000 of population	
	1946	1945	1946	1945
Measles	0	2	0.00	0.02
Whooping Cough	3	0	0.03	0.00
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	3	2	0.03	0.02
Cancer	176	182	2.06	2.24

Poor Law Relief.

The following information as to the number of persons receiving Relief at the end of December, 1946, and the amount of cash payments during the year, compared with the corresponding figures for 1945 has been kindly supplied by the Director of Social Welfare :—

	1946 Week ending 28-12-46	1945 Week ending 29-12-45
No. of persons in receipt of Institutional Relief (excluding cases in Mental Hospitals)	318	362
No. of Persons relieved (excluding non-resident persons and vagrants) ...	671	761
Amount of Out Relief granted	£461 4 6	£509 3 0

National Health Insurance.

The Clerk to the Insurance Committee has kindly supplied the following information as to the number of insured persons in the Borough and the cost of medicines supplied to the insured population :—

	Year ended Dec. 31st.	
	1946	1945
(1) Total number of Insured Persons in the Borough on October 1st ...	52,505 ...	47,392
(2) Number of Prescriptions made up for the Insured Population	227,625 ...	225,814
(3) Annual Cost of Drugs, Medicines and Appliances for Insured Population	£14,862 ...	£14,002

Unemployment.

I am indebted to the Manager of the Rochdale Employment Exchange for information regarding the state of unemployment in Rochdale and the adjoining district of Wardle during 1946. Figures for Rochdale only are not available.

The average number of unemployed persons on the register during the year ended the 31st December, 1946, was as follows :—Men 290, Women 23, and Juveniles 10, making a total of 323 persons. It is not possible to give a comparison with immediate past years as similar information has not been available during the war period.

I am also informed that at the middle of 1946 there were approximately 42,529 insured persons (23,059 men, 15,513 women and 3,957 juveniles) but I am asked to state that this figure does not include those persons who by reason of age, type or class of employment, or part-time capacity, are exempted from the Unemployment Insurance Scheme.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area.

The area of the Borough is 9,553 acres.

Population.

The Census Return of April, 1931, gave the population as 90,278 and in June, 1938, the Registrar General's estimate was 91,290.

The figure of 85,200 is given by the Registrar General as the estimate of the civilian population mid-year 1946 as compared with the figure of 81,100 for 1945.

The present is the eighth in the series of special estimates which began in 1939 to cover the war period. The lowest level of these was reached in 1945 and the 1946 increase represents the return from the Armed Forces to civilian life.

Live Births.

1,521 live births (males 776, females 745) were registered, as compared with 1,267 in 1945 and an average of 1,162 for the ten years 1936—1945.

Illegitimate births numbered 109, as against 118 in 1945, and an average of 77 in the previous five years.

The Live Birth-rate was equal to 17.8 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as against 15.6 per 1,000 the previous year, and 16.2 in 1944. The year 1939 had the lowest rate ever registered for the Borough, namely 11.0 per 1,000. The average birth-rate for the ten years 1936—1945 was 13.4 per 1,000.

Still Births.

54 were registered as compared with 32 in 1945, and an average of 45 in the previous five years.

Deaths.

The deaths registered show an increase with 1,272 (males 648, females 624) as against 1,263 in the year 1945, and 1,174 in 1944.

The death-rate from all causes was 14.9 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 15.5 in 1945, and an average of 15.4 during the ten years 1936—1945.

The chief causes of death are given overleaf in comparison with the previous year.

						Year 1946		Year 1945
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	9
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	42	...	38
Cancer...	...	...	...	...	...	176	...	182
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.				...	...	157	...	153
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	321	...	372
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	113	...	70
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	97	...	130
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	45	...	42
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	33	...	46
Congenital Debility, Malformation and Pre-mature Birth, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	29	...	33
					TOTAL	1,027	...	1,075

Percentage of total deaths registered during
the year

80.6 ... 85.1

Table II. Appendix, shows the age and sex distribution and causes of deaths in 1946, while Table I. gives comparative mortality rates and birth-rates during the past ten years.

This increase is mainly accounted for by deaths occurring in the group "Congenital Debility, Malformation and Birth Injuries"; a group which showed an unusually low figure in 1945.

Infant Mortality.

There were 75 deaths registered under one year of age, equal to a rate of 49 per 1,000 live births registered, compared with 56 deaths and a rate of 44 last year, accounted for by deaths occurring in the group "Congenital Debility, Malformation, Birth Injuries".

The average for the ten years 1936—1945 was 60 per 1,000 live births. The table given below shows the comparative figures for the previous ten years :—

Year	Deaths Registered	Rate per 1,000 Nett Live Births	Year	Deaths Registered	Rate per 1,000 Nett Live Births
1936	76	69	1941	76	67
1937	58	53	1942	90	71
1938	69	63	1943	58	46
1939	55	55	1944	67	50
1940	96	89	1945	56	44

Most of the infant deaths have in recent years been accounted for by three groups :—

- (a) Congenital debility, malformation and birth injuries ;
- (b) Prematurity ;
- (c) Pneumonia ;

From time to time there is an increase in the Diarrhoea and Enteritis group. It will be obvious that the problems of prevention of infant deaths are entirely different in the last two groups—Pneumonia, and Diarrhoea and Enteritis, as compared with the first two.

In the last two the problems are those of the care of the infant once it has become established as a separate entity and these problems are more amenable to solution by teaching of hygiene. The first two groups on the other hand are bound up with questions arising out of the ante-natal care of the mother. Problems of nutrition of the mother, of her environment and heredity, are no doubt involved, but the understanding of the bearing of these problems upon the health of the new born is not sufficiently far advanced to allow prevention to be simplified.

Comparative Mortality and Birth-rates.

	Death-rate All Causes per 1,000 of population	Live Birth-rate per 1,000 of population	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births
ROCHDALE	14.9	17.8	49
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns ...	12.7	22.2	46
148 Smaller Towns (Population 25,000 to 50,000)	11.7	21.3	37
ENGLAND AND WALES	11.5	19.1	43

These provisional figures are corrected only for transfers and institutions and make no allowance for variations in the age and sex distribution of the population in different areas

Zymotic Diseases.

The principal zymotic diseases (excluding influenza) caused 8 deaths, compared with 8 last year.

						Year 1946	Year 1945
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
TOTAL ... ...					...	8	8

Respiratory Diseases.

This group of diseases caused 157 deaths, as compared with 188 in 1945. Pneumonia caused 45 deaths (42), Bronchitis 97 deaths (130) and other respiratory affections 15 deaths (16).

The average number of deaths from these diseases in the 5 years 1941—1945 was 188.

Cancer.

The arrangement with the Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute, Manchester, for the admission and treatment of selected cases of cancer has been continued during the year.

Deaths classified to this cause and shown in age groups below numbered 176 (males 85, females 91), as against 182 the previous year :—

		Total Deaths	under 15 yrs.	15—45 yrs.	45—65 yrs.	65 yrs. and over
Year 1945	...	182	1	13	76	92
Year 1946	...	176	—	10	68	98

The death-rate was 2.06 per 1,000 as against 2.24 per 1,000 of the estimated population for the previous year.

No special investigations have been undertaken during the year in connection with the incidence or causation of this disease.

The Cancer Act of 1939 made it necessary for Local Authorities to formulate a complete scheme for the investigation and treatment of cancer. This Act was, however, postponed from time to time during the war and its provisions will ultimately be absorbed by the National Health Service Act, 1946.

On the original Act a considerable amount of discussion at various levels had taken place amongst Authorities in South-East Lancashire with a view to establishing a complete scheme based upon Manchester with its Christie Cancer Hospital and Holt Radium Institute. Even in view of the pending change in legislation it was felt that much useful preliminary work could be done by continuing these discussions. By the end of the year this had resulted in the formation of a Manchester Region Joint Cancer Board. The general plan is that the Local Authorities in the area will be represented on this Board and will delegate their powers with regard to cancer to the Board. Every person found to be suffering from cancer or found to require detailed investigation as a cancer suspect will become chargeable to the Board, the Board ultimately recharging the Authorities on a uniform basis. Under this board is set up an Executive Council of representatives of the Board and other persons with specialist knowledge of cancer, or of the operation of clinics and hospitals. This Executive Council is charged with formulating a detailed scheme and carrying out in detail the policy of the Board for the region.

It is not likely that the Board or Council will have done more than collate information as to the need on one hand and the facilities on the other and set out on paper a complete scheme for the region. Nevertheless, this planning stage may, it is hoped, be of considerable benefit to those charged with the responsibility for treating cancer after July, 1948.

General Provision of Health Services.

Nursing in the Home.

Arrangements continued throughout the year with the District Nursing Association, as described in the last two reports.

The Association staff paid a total of 4,416 visits to 397 Public Health cases during the year ; the cases being mainly children under five years of age, patients suffering from Pneumonia, from Tuberculosis and from conditions arising out of Pregnancy and Child Birth (558 visits to 162 patients). This work made a valuable and much appreciated contribution to the operation of the Public Health Sections concerned.

Particular mention should be made of the assistance given to the Municipal Midwifery Service, both by visiting of cases after confinement and by undertaking actual deliveries. The Association made it possible for the Midwifery Service to carry on at a time when it was extremely overworked.

Poor Law Medical Out-Relief.

As previously outlined the town is served by the Domiciliary Medical Services Scheme on the Panel system, except for the Wardleworth and Small-bridge Wards, where a permanent District Medical Officer still holds office. The number covered by the Panel Scheme on the 31st December, 1946, was 1,511.

Institutional Provision for Care of Mental Defectives.

These cases are accommodated at the Birch Hill Institution, where 150 beds are provided for this type of case.

Ambulance Facilities.

In November, 1944, the Public Health Committee assumed temporary control of this service. After the experience gained by two years administration the Committee decided to enter upon a scheme of reorganisation and rehousing of this service. The results of these deliberations, which continued into 1947 and at the time of writing are not completed, will be further reported upon.

A day and night service is provided to deal with accident calls and removals to Corporation and other Hospitals. At the present time a fleet of five vehicles is engaged with a personnel establishment of one Ambulance Officer, 19 Drivers and Attendants and three Telephonists.

Agreements have been entered into with the Councils of 3 adjacent districts to provide ambulance facilities in their areas.

During the year 5,254 ambulance journeys involving a running mileage of 31,036 miles, were run, being 540 journeys on account of accidents in the streets, works, etc., and 4,714 other journeys. Of the total journeys shown 4,493 were in respect of Borough patients and 761 for Out-Borough patients.

By arrangement with the Rochdale Transport Department a car is maintained at the Ambulance Depot for the Municipal Midwifery Service. During 1946 a total of 3,888 journeys (15,067 miles) was made. This vehicle is driven by the Ambulance personnel.

In connection with the Municipal Car Hire Service operated by the Rochdale Transport Department, an arrangement has been made for a Night Car Service to convey relatives of patients called in emergency to Birch Hill Hospital or the Rochdale Infirmary at times when normal transport facilities are not available. The number of persons conveyed during 1946 was 66.

Clinic and Treatment Centres.

Arrangements remain as in 1945.

There are five Centres in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare maintained by the Local Authority, with fifteen sessions each week ; also one centre each in connection with (a) Venereal Diseases, (b) Tuberculosis, and (c) School Medical Inspection.

The work in connection with the Corporation clinics is set out in detail in the respective sections of this report.

Laboratory Facilities.

(a) BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The Municipal Laboratory, in the grounds of Birch Hill Hospital, opened in 1943, has been in full working during the year. It is now able to undertake all Bacteriological and Bio-chemical work for this and other Corporation Departments and is available for outside bodies when required. In addition it serves as the Depot for the Local Blood Transfusion Service.

The following table shows the work done by the Laboratory. The unit value shown in respect of the Laboratory is primarily designed for costing purposes, but is included here to give some idea of the relative amount of time and material spent in the different classes of specimens :—

Sent By	Specimens		Unit Value	
	1946	1945	1946	1945
Public Health Office, including Swabs etc. from Practitioners	803	724	3532	3290
Maternity and Child Welfare ...	1417	1082	1572	1197
Tuberculosis Dispensary ...	266	208	505	436
School Medical Service ...	143	17	341	71
Marland Hospital ...	687	1015	1714	2327
Springfield Sanatorium ...	260	298	539	667
Birch Hill Hospital ...	5349	4221	27749	20224
Private ...	487	264	1802	851
Others ...	100	189	926	1350
TOTAL ...	9512	8018	38680	30413

Dr. C. H. Adderley, the Pathologist in charge, works in close collaboration with the Medical Officers of the hospitals and clinics, and is always available for consultant purposes. The value of this work can never be represented in any statistical table, but is fully reflected by the increased interest to both sides and by the ultimate benefit to the patients.

The bacteriological examination of water and of milk is included in the work of the above laboratory, while chemical analysis of water is carried out by the Public Analyst :—

Milk—for Tubercle Bacilli (Animal Inoculation) ...	110 samples.
for Bacterial Count, B. Coli and Reductase Test ...	113 „
Water—for Bacterial Count ...	109 „

(b) PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

In addition to the examinations included in the work of the above Laboratory 1,448 specimens from persons suspected of suffering from venereal diseases were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, and 844 specimens were examined by the Medical Officers of the treatment centre.

(c) MILK AND FOODSTUFFS.

The Borough Analyst has examined 208 samples under the Food and Drugs Acts, as against 141 last year.

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

There are two dwelling-houses registered as Maternity Homes and two as Nursing Homes for medical and surgical cases :—

59 Boundary Street—two patients—Maternity.

78 Louise Street—three patients—Maternity.

183 Drake Street—eight patients—Medical and Surgical.

The Law Nursing Home, Manchester Road—34 patients—Medical.

The Nursing Homes were visited during the year by the Medical Officer and were reported upon as satisfactory.

In a compact area such as Rochdale, there is no possibility of an unregistered Nursing Home being in existence without the knowledge of the Public Health Department.

Hospitals.

The public and voluntary hospital services in the district provide for 1,052 beds for sick, as shown below :—

PUBLIC HOSPITALS—

Birch Hill Hospital—General Medical and Surgical	...	417	beds
do. Maternity	... ..	58	„
Birch Hill Institution—Epilepsy, Mentally Infirm, etc	...	150	„
Marland Hospital—Infectious Diseases	... ..	120	„
Springfield Sanatorium—Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	36	„
(females)...	... ..	
Wolstenholme Pulmonary Hospital—Pulmonary			
Tuberculosis (males)	... ..	55	„

VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS—

Rochdale Infirmary—General (chiefly surgical)	... ..	110	„
The Memorial Home—Orthopaedic	... ..	50	„

In addition to this number, arrangements have been continued during the year to send selected cases of tuberculosis to various sanatoria, e.g. The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry.

Three beds are also retained at the Hyde Smallpox Hospital for cases of smallpox which may occur within the Borough.

The General Hospital, Birch Hill.

This hospital has accommodation for 475 patients, including 417 beds for general medical and surgical and 58 for maternity cases, and serves the Rochdale County Borough and the adjoining County Districts with a total estimated population of approximately 120,000.

During the year 4,194 patients were admitted to the hospital, excluding the 1,100 infants born in the hospital, in comparison with 3,745 admissions and 885 live births in 1945.

The following statistical summary provides an indication of the volume of work done at Birch Hill Hospital.

	Year 1946		Year 1945	
Total number of admissions (including infants born in hospital)	5294	...	4630	
Number of women confined in hospital	1125	..	904	
Number of live births	1100	...	885	
Number of still-births	49	...	35	
Number of deaths amongst the newly-born (i.e. under 4 weeks of age)	39	...	29	
Total number of deaths amongst children under one year	59		57	
Number of maternal deaths among women confined in hospital	5	...	7	
Total number of deaths	499	...	445	
Total number of discharges (including infants born in hospital)... ..	4768	...	4137	
Duration of stay of patients—				
(a) Four weeks or less	3527	...	3352	
(b) Exceeding four weeks but under thirteen weeks	1128	...	918	
(c) Exceeding thirteen weeks	612	...	312	
Number of beds occupied, average during the year... (highest 423 on 11/4/46, lowest 346 on 4/8/46)	377	...	359	
Number of surgical operations under general anæsthetic (excluding dental operations) ...	1364	...	1461	
Number of abdominal sections	486	...	526	
Number of pathological and microscopical examinations	5788	...	4221	

During the year the hospital continued to suffer under most of the disabilities which were enumerated in last year's report. It cannot be said that any definite improvement took place in the nursing staff position or with regard to the supply of material and equipment on the treatment or on the catering side.

It continued to be obvious that additional hospital accommodation could not be built for some considerable time, at least until the housing problem was well advanced and further, that such additional accommodation would be provided by the new Regional Hospital Board and not by the Local Authority.

In two directions, however, the Committee were able to make improvements. The Consultant staff was increased by the appointment of a Visiting Physician and a Consultant in Ear, Nose and Throat diseases. At the same time the resident medical staff was re-organised and increased to three senior posts and two junior posts. This taxed to the full the available accommodation and no further development can take place until extra accommodation is provided.

The second of these schemes was the acquiring of premises for the provision of a Preliminary Training School for nurses. Although this was well in hand it still seemed doubtful at the end of the year when the accommodation would be available.

The increasing birth-rate continued to press very heavily both on the domiciliary midwifery staff and on the Maternity Home at the hospital. Even with a system of controlled booking the staff in this section has been worked to the fullest possible capacity.

Dental Work.

I am indebted to Mr. H. Senior Ashworth, Dental Surgeon at the General Hospital, for the following statement of dental work carried out at the hospital and the adjoining Public Assistance Institution during the year :—

Visits to Birch Hill Hospital ...	...	...	...	...	65
Fillings ...	...	...	...	...	1
Extractions ...	...	...	...	...	192
Repairs ...	...	...	...	...	6

General Anæsthetics, other than Nitrous Oxide, have been administered by the Medical Officers for the extraction of teeth.

Blood Transfusion Service.

No public campaigns were held during the year. The Department still maintains its liason with the Regional Transfusion Service, but fewer demands were made for sessions in connection with the maintenance of the Blood Bank. The needs of local hospitals are provided for by regular small sessions conducted by the Pathologist.

Joint Consultative Committee.

The Joint Committee consisting of representatives of the Health Committee and of the Rochdale Infirmary, appointed for the purpose of co-ordinating the hospital services, have continued their regular meetings, and many matters of mutual interest affecting general hospital administration have been discussed.

Hospital Recommends.

The Corporation are able to supply a limited number of " Recommends " for admission to the following institutions :—

Manchester Royal Eye Hospital ;
 Manchester Royal Infirmary ;
 Rochdale Infirmary ;
 Devonshire Royal Hospital, Buxton.

Application for these " Recommends " should be made to the Public Health Offices and should be accompanied by a medical certificate, or written request from the hospital concerned.

Marland Hospital and Springfield Sanatorium.

The work at these institutions is referred to in a later part of this report.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Notification of Births—Public Health Act, 1936.

There were 1,544 births notified as belonging to Rochdale—1,540 by midwives, and 4 by doctors. These figures include 863 births occurring at Birch Hill Maternity Home and classified to Rochdale.

Health Visitors.

The staff of Health Visitors returned to a normal strength of six in July 1946. The Health Visitors have made a total of 14,769 visits, mainly to children under five, 11,452 visits, and to expectant mothers, 134 visits. The Health Visitors are also in regular attendance at the Welfare Centres, Nursery Schools and the Day Nursery.

Infant Welfare Centres.

The five centres in different parts of the town have continued with their nine weekly sessions.

The total attendances of children of all ages at all clinics were 23,686 as compared with 22,705 in 1945.

After a period of varied interim arrangements we were able this year to return to normal and regular staffing with the result that the clinics gradually began to return to full strength.

No alterations of any note were made in the general arrangements and there were no special or new features in regard to the health of the children to which it is necessary to draw attention.

Centre	New Cases admitted during 1946	Total Attendances of Children			Average Attendance per Clinic Session	No. of Medical examinations by M.O.
		under 1 yr.	1—2 yrs.	2—5 yrs.		
(a) Baillie Street * (Wardleworth)	131	2,254	784	515	† 36 (36)	1,140
(b)*St. Luke's ...	218	3,364	972	744	53 (52)	1,430
(c)*St. Clement's ...	204	3,237	1,365	1,030	56 (53)	1,361
(d) Baillie Street * (Castleton) ...	203	2,958	839	562	44 (42)	1,234
(e) Castleton ...	138	2,178	686	1,050	41 (41)	836
(f) Norden ...	59	679	237	232	24 (24)	248
Totals ...	953	14,670	4,883	4,133	—	6,249
Corresponding Figures 1945 ...	872	13,100	5,279	4,326	—	4,816

* Two Clinic Sessions per week. † Figures in brackets are for 1945.

The number of children who attended for the first time and who at the date of their first visit were under one year of age was 879 or 59 per cent of the notified live births, as against 64 per cent in 1945.

Medical records of children attending these clinics are subsequently transferred to the School Medical Services Clinic.

The members of the Ladies' Executive Committee and co-opted voluntary helpers have continued to give their time and assistance at the various clinics and in other ways, for which service the Health Committee have recorded their appreciation and thanks.

Orthopaedic Clinic.

Children attending the Child Welfare Clinic and requiring expert opinion or treatment are referred to the Smith Street Clinic carried on by the Crippled Children's Union. Dr. Bateman's services in this connection are always readily available and his help is gratefully acknowledged.

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

We are indebted to the local branch of this society and to their Inspector for their ready and willing co-operation with this department in dealing with cases of neglect, uncleanness and similar conditions coming within the purview of the Medical Officer and Health Visitors throughout the year.

Provision of Milk and Food Preparations.

The Local Authority's scheme for the distribution of milk and food preparations continues on the modified scale which has existed since the National Milk Scheme came into being, particularly since that scheme was made to include the dried milk and vitamin preparations.

Closest contact is maintained between the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic services and the Milk Office. The clinics are utilised as distribution centres with staff allocated from the Milk Office.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

In 1945, 763 children under five received a course of immunisation and in 1946 the number immunised in this group was 841.

Further mention is made of the scheme in the sections dealing with Infectious Diseases and School Medical Services.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics.

There are now six clinic sessions each week—four Ante-natal Clinics at Baillie Street Council School and one at Birch Hill Maternity Home, while one Post-natal Clinic is held at Baillie Street School.

The number of women attending these clinics is set out in the following summary.

		Rochdale Borough		County Districts		Total	
		1946	1945	1946	1945	1946	1945
(1) ANTE-NATAL CLINICS							
(a) No. of Expectant Mothers attending (New Cases) ...	Baillie St.	1,140	966	140	130	1,250	1,096
	Birch Hill	—	—	131	94	131	94
(b) No. of attendances (Old and New Cases) ...	Baillie St.	5,505	4,695	667	579	6,172	5,274
	Birch Hill	—	—	729	518	729	518
(c) Average attendances per clinic session ...	Baillie St.	22.4	22.3	2.7	2.8	25	25
	Birch Hill	—	—	14.0	10.1	14.0	10.1
(2) POST-NATAL CLINIC							
(a) No. of Mothers attending (New Cases) ...	Baillie St.	233	230	36	35	269	265
(b) No. of attendances (Old and New Cases) ...	Baillie St.	286	334	51	39	337	373
(c) Average attendance per clinic session ...	Baillie St.	6.1	7.4	1.1	0.9	7.2	8.3

The 1140 Rochdale patients who attended for the first time at the Ante-natal Clinics during the year represents 74 per cent. of the total notified live-births and still-births in this Borough as compared with 75 per cent. in the previous year. In following up these patients the Health Visitors paid 134 home visits.

Laboratory Facilities.

The services of the X-Ray Department at Birch Hill Hospital are available to patients from the Ante-natal Clinics as are also the services of the Laboratory.

In particular the Laboratory staff attend certain Ante-natal Clinics in order to perform complete blood counts on new cases. During the year 1,336 counts were carried out in respect of 1,230 patients.

Consultant Services.

The link between the Ante-natal Clinics and Birch Hill Maternity Home has been further strengthened by the appointment of a Senior Medical Officer for Midwifery and Gynaecology at Birch Hill Hospital and by arrangements for this Officer to undertake certain Ante-natal Clinics.

The whole of the midwifery services, both in the home and in the clinics, including Post-natal Clinic, continues to be under the supervision of Dr. K. A. Evans, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist.

Emergency Maternity Unit.

The unit is available at short notice night and day for service within the Borough or adjoining County Districts (Tel. No. 8294, Birch Hill Hospital). This service was not called upon during the year.

Maternity Outfits.

Two loans of Maternity Outfits for confinement at home were made during the year. Sterilised accouchement outfits may be obtained at the Child Welfare Centres at cost price or free in necessitous cases.

Dental Services.

The joint arrangement with the School Dental Services has been continued. Dental treatment in the nature of extractions and small fillings necessary for clearing septic conditions was given to 23 mothers and six children.

Medical Assistance.

Midwives practising in the District requested the services of a medical practitioner in 242 maternity cases and in 22 cases of newly born children. The corresponding figures last year were 205 and 34 respectively.

In 25 cases the medical fee was paid in whole or part by the Local Authority amounting in the aggregate to £41 as against £32 the previous year.

Midwifery Fees.

The Local Authority pay the midwifery fee in cases where the family circumstances, including the question of Maternity Benefits, merit this. During the year the fee was paid or allowed in whole or part in 30 cases.

Maternity Home.

There were 1,328 maternity cases admitted to Birch Hill Maternity Home, 1,024 from Rochdale and 304 from surrounding districts, as against 1,046 in 1945 and 1,138 in 1944. The actual number of women confined was 1,125 of which 886 were Rochdale, 231 Lancashire County Area and eight from other districts.

Midwives.

14 midwives gave notice during the year of intention to practice in this Borough; 10 of whom were engaged as Municipal Midwives, while of the remaining four, three were engaged in private practice and one employed by the Queen's District Nursing Association. Comparative figures of the year's district midwifery work by Municipal Midwives are given overleaf :—

					Year 1946	Year 1945
Cases attended—as Midwife					525	443
as Maternity Nurse...					43	36
Visits during laying-in period—as Midwife					7,756	6,230
as Maternity Nurse					499	347
Ante-natal (Home Visits)—					2,114	1,606
Miscellaneous Visits—Ante-natal Clinic, etc. ...					219	471

The 3 midwives in private practice attended 42 cases as midwives during the past year and 6 as maternity nurses.

The year 1945 was a very difficult one with regard to the operation of the Midwifery Service, both Domiciliary and Hospital. During 1946, however, there was a considerable improvement in the staffing of the Municipal Midwifery Service with the result that the work recorded shows a considerable increase over that done in 1945. It is, however, still no easy matter to keep the Municipal Midwifery Service at full strength and it would appear that this very important section of nursing has not yet been made sufficiently attractive to ensure a ready supply of domiciliary midwives.

References have already been made to the difficulties in the Maternity Home at Birch Hill. Some years ago when the figure of 1,000 births in the year was reached it was decided that this number was probably too high for safety and in any case must always be regarded as the top limit with which the Maternity Home could deal in the absence of increased accommodation and increased staff.

With the rising birth rate, however, the larger number of cases undertaken by midwives on the district has not been sufficient to relieve the pressure on the Maternity Home and there has been a consequent rise to a figure considerably over the safety margin.

Just as in the case of the Municipal Midwives, the supply of Trained Midwives and of Pupil Midwives for the hospital work continually falls below full requirements. With the institution of National Salary Scales and Conditions there is, of course, little that any individual Local Authority can do to better this position.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Three cases of puerperal pyrexia were reported, all of which were removed to Marland Hospital for treatment. During the previous year four cases were reported.

Maternal Mortality.

There were three maternal deaths recorded during the year, with a maternal mortality rate of 1.90 per 1,000 total births (live and still-births). This compares with last year's figure of four deaths, with a mortality rate of 3.07, and one death with a mortality rate of 0.73 for 1944.

An examination of the reports made on the three maternal deaths to this Department did not show any necessity for alteration in our general practice.

The first of these was due to a rare and rapidly fatal complication of pregnancy ; the second occurred where every reasonable precaution appeared to have been taken and in the third no avoidable factor could be ascertained.

The following figures show the maternal mortality rates in other towns as compared with Rochdale.

AREA	MATERNAL MORTALITY per 1,000 Live and Still Births		
	1946	1945	Average 5 years 1940-44
ROCHDALE	1.90	3.07	3.51
Average 12 neighbouring manufacturing towns ...	1.45	2.34	3.09
Administrative County of Lancaster	1.42	2.32	2.82
England and Wales ...	1.43	1.79	2.12

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No case was reported during 1946, as against 4 cases in 1945 and 2 in 1944.

Child Life Protection.

On the 31st December, 1946, there were 12 persons registered as receiving children for reward. The number of children concerned was 13.

DAY NURSERY, CASTLETON.

The number on the register was 66 in January, 1946, and 70 in December, 1946, 22 being under two years. The average attendance for the whole year was 43 over two years and 16 under two years. This represents an increase over 1945 when the numbers were 33 over two years and 14 under two years. The mothers of the children were all in full-time employment.

The children showed a steady gain in height and weight despite mild outbreaks of measles, mumps and enteritis. Of the children examined, only two were found to be of subnormal nutrition.

The Medical Officer visits each week in order to examine new entrants and any special cases. In addition, a medical inspection is carried out quarterly at which all routine cases are re-examined. Routine medical inspections were made by the Medical Officer where entrants and special cases were examined. Children from the Nursery were also seen at the adjacent Welfare Clinic.

Cases referred for special treatment were :—

Eye Specialist	...	...	...	...	2
U.V.R. Therapy	...	...	...	...	1
Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist	...	...	...	...	2

All children on reaching the age of one year received a full course of immunisation with A.P.T. against diphtheria.

The Matron of the Nursery maintains close contact with the mothers, and points of importance are brought to the notice of the mother when she comes to collect the child in the evening.

During the year the Matron and Staff organised a very successful "Bring and Buy" Sale, the proceeds of which were devoted to the purchase of Christmas toys for the children. Social activities organised on the Nursery premises for the mothers of the Nursery children, included whist drives and a Christmas party.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

I am indebted to the Chief Officials of the various Departments of the Corporation for information included in this section of the Report.

Water Supply.

- (i) The water supply of each of the several parts of the area has been satisfactory (a) in quality, (b) in quantity.
- (ii) Bacteriological examinations of the raw water and of the treated water have been made ; 82 samples having been examined during the year with satisfactory results. The results of chemical analysis of samples of the treated water were satisfactory
- (iii) Whilst the raw water from each of the reservoirs would be liable to have plumbo-solvent action, during the year, no dissolved lead had been found in any of them. The pH value of the water as it goes into supply is raised by the addition of lime water and is, no doubt, the explanation why on no occasion has lead been found in solution. For the past few years all the waters have been chlorinated. During the year 92 samples have been submitted for chemical analysis and have been found satisfactory.

- (iv) No special form of contamination has had to be dealt with during the past year, but practically all inhabited buildings have been removed from the gathering grounds. Negotiations are proceeding for the acquisition of some of the few occupied premises still existing and the remainder will, no doubt, be acquired in the reasonably near future.
- (v) No dwellinghouses, nor any part of the population, are normally supplied by means of standpipes. The number of privately-owned sources of water supply is not large.

Drainage and Sewerage.

At Roch Mills Sewage Disposal Works the sewage is screened after grit removal and then passed through Primary and Secondary Sedimentation Tanks. Half the flow is then passed through an Activated Sludge Plant constructed on the Kessener System, and the other half is pumped to bacteria beds. Good effluents are obtained and there is a little reserve of capacity.

The development of housing sites has necessitated some considerable extensions to sewers in certain parts of the district.

Rivers and Streams.

The Lancashire Rivers Board are responsible for the prevention of pollution of rivers and streams in this area, and any cases which come to the notice of the Borough Surveyor are reported to the Board for their attention.

At the request of the Lancashire Rivers Board the Borough Surveyor, Mr. S. H. Morgan, M.Inst.C.E., has prepared a preliminary report on the combined treatment of trade effluent discharging into Naden Brook, for the consideration of the mill owners.

Public Cleansing.

There were no material changes in the refuse collection, disposal, or street cleansing services during the year.

Salvage continued to be an important part of the work of the Cleansing Department as will be seen from the year's activities, compared with 1945, indicated in the following table of tonnages of the principal salvage groups sold :—

	1946	1945
	Tons	Tons
Waste paper and books	485	444
Scrap metals	664	542
Rags, sacking, carpets, etc.	69	69
*Kitchen waste processed for pig and poultry food ...	1,800	1,851
Fertiliser	89	55
*Bones	27	33
Bottles and jars	42	33
Broken glass	1	4
Fuel cinder... ..	296	265
	<u>3,473</u>	<u>3,296</u>

* Including supplies received from neighbouring districts.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

790 Preliminary or Informal Notices for the abatement of nuisances and for the remedy of sanitary defects in and around dwellings were served on owners and occupiers, and resulted in the accomplishment of works given in the classified statement below. The statement also includes works carried out at factories and food storage premises, etc., following the service of preliminary notices, but excludes work done under the Housing Acts.

NATURE OF NUISANCES DEALT WITH	Nos.
HOUSES—	
Verminous dwellings disinfested	3
Dirty Houses limewashed and cleansed	22
Repairs to roofs, floors, walls, eavestroughing, rainwater pipes, chimneys, and general repairs to brickwork or stonework (including dampness) and repair or renewal of house fittings...	1219
YARDS, PASSAGES, ETC.—	
Repairs to surfaces, gates, walls, etc.	41
Offensive accumulations and stagnant water removed	16
SANITARY CONVENIENCES—	
Water-closet buildings repaired	61
Water-closet fittings repaired	173
DRAINS—	
Main or branch drains repaired or cleansed	65
GENERAL—	
Want of limewashing or cleansing of premises used for the preparation or storage of food	24
Absence of, or unsatisfactory condition of, sanitary accommodation at factories or workshops	13
Miscellaneous nuisances remedied	3

Probably one of the most exacting duties falling upon this Department during recent years has been the investigation of applications for re-housing with a view to the presentation of priority cases to the Housing Committee.

During 1946, 361 houses have been inspected and reported upon in this connection. After inspection and report each case is considered individually by the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Sanitary Inspector in accordance with certain broad principles before being submitted to the Housing Committee for final decision.

In the present stage of the housing problem it is obvious that a large number of cases, which would normally be regarded as deserving cases, have to be excluded from the priority lists.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

The extension of work under this Act made necessary by the issue of the Infestation Order, 1943, required increased staff. The staff consists of three persons, two of whom hold temporary appointments and one spends only part of his time on this work.

179 dwelling houses and 493 business premises were treated during the year. This required 2,878 visits and the estimated kill was at least 713 rats.

Towards the end of the year a search was instituted in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Food. This consisted of enquiries made at various premises and 319 visits were made.

Two "maintenance" treatments of the sewers were undertaken in collaboration with the Borough Surveyor's Department who were responsible for the cost. These treatments were modified treatments carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Food.

The first treatment was done between May and July and out of the 2,730 manholes listed, 1,420 were pre-baited ; "takes" were recorded at 486 manholes and at all of these poison baits were laid.

The second treatment was done between October and December and 2,108 manholes were pre-baited, "takes" were recorded at 815 of them and poison baits were laid at all of these.

The modified treatment does not allow of a precise estimate of kill and no figure can therefore be given. The results however can best be assessed when one considers that from areas where complaints were quite frequent, no complaints are now received.

Shop Acts, 1912 and 1934.

No notices under these Acts were issued during 1946.

Offensive Trades.

The number of premises at which these trades are carried on in the Borough is as follows :—

Tripe boiling	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fellmongering	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Knackers yard (bone boiling)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rag and Bone Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

These premises have been visited during the year.

Closet Accommodation.

The approximate accommodation in the Borough at the end of December, 1946, was as follows :—

Fresh-water carriage system	...	...	...	26,337
Pail Closets	...	...	...	1,552
Waste-water Closets	...	...	...	1,577
Privy Middens	...	...	...	33

The tables showing the progress of conversion of pail closets have been omitted.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Retail Bakehouses.

The number of bakehouses now on the register is 157. These have been regularly inspected, and cleansing and limewashing have been carried out at appropriate times, but in 24 cases it was necessary to give verbal warning about the need for limewashing.

A high standard of cleanliness has been maintained and it has not been found necessary to issue any abatement notices in this respect.

Workshops.

220 inspections of workshops have been carried out during the year.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

130 smoke observations of one half-hour each were taken during the year and 10 contraventions of the Act were reported to the Committee.

The Committee authorised the service of the appropriate notice on each of the nine firms concerned (10 contraventions).

The Inspectors found in the course of their duties in this respect a general willingness on the part of firms to co-operate in the reduction of smoke nuisance.

The Ministry of Fuel and Power have been kept informed of all unsatisfactory observations taken and their Engineers have co-operated with firms in the town in attempting to overcome these difficulties.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are eight of these premises now registered ; the accommodation provided comprises 40 rooms containing 467 beds.

Regular visits of inspection have been made during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

There were 103 farms on the register at the end of 1946. These were visited by the Dairies Inspector.

Milkshops.

The number of shops retailing milk in bottles is 226, whilst the number retailing unbottled milk is 4. With the exception of two, these are registered dairies. All premises have been inspected regularly during the year.

Inspection of Premises used for the Preparation of and Sale of Food-stuffs.

During the year 3,963 visits have been made to this type of premises.

Rochdale Corporation Act, 1937.

This Act deals with the registration of premises for the preparation and sale of various foodstuffs. 7 premises were registered under the provisions of the Act during the year.

Meat and Food Supply.

There has been regular inspection of meat and food offered for sale, 27,704 carcasses were examined and over 85 tons have been destroyed as unfit for human food.

MILK AND DAIRIES CONSOLIDATION ACT, 1915.

MILK AND DAIRIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1922.

Tuberculous Milk.

During the year 110 samples of milk have been taken in the Rochdale streets for the purpose of detecting supplies of tuberculous milk. The samples represented the milk of about 1,661 cows and were taken in batches monthly. Of the samples, 72 were from Rochdale Borough farmers and 38 from County farmers delivering milk in the Borough. The number found to be tubercular was :—

From Rochdale farmers	...	...	...	1 (1.4%)
From County farmers	...	...	...	3 (7.9%)

In connection with the positive samples the necessary steps in respect of the infected animals were taken by the Ministry of Agriculture under the revised arrangements which came into force on the 1st April, 1938.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

208 samples of food and drugs were submitted for analysis during the year compared with 141 during the previous year.

Of these, 202 samples were of milk and the remainder were :- butter (1), gelatine (1), ground ginger (1), ice-cream (1), pepper (1), pickled beetroot (1), 19 of the samples were reported as being adulterated—(18 milk and 1 butter) and prosecutions were instituted against the vendor in respect of 6 samples. Fines totalling £66 were imposed and a total of £6 6s. 0d. was awarded against the defendants in respect of analyst's fees.

In 5 cases the Committee, following a usual custom in dealing with first offences of a minor character, either interviewed or sent letters of warning to the vendors.

1 sample although below standard according to the Sale of Milk Regulations was proved to be genuine milk by the application of the Hortvet Freezing Point Test.

1 sample was proved by an "appeal to cow" sample to be below standard when obtained from the cow.

In 1 case the deficiency was small and the Analyst could not recommend further proceedings.

In 3 cases the samples were informal and formal samples taken later did not show adulteration.

A sample of butter submitted by a customer showed the addition of margarine. As an informal sample no proceedings could be instituted, and close enquiries later indicated a doubt as to the source of the adulteration.

SCABIES ORDER, 1941.

Early in the year it was possible to utilise the central premises, obtained and adapted in 1945, for cleansing purposes.

The general working of the Cleansing Station is under the supervision of a District Sanitary Inspector.

To suit all persons concerned, sessions have been arranged in the morning and in the afternoon of each day throughout the week. Evening sessions are available as required for those engaged in industry.

The following table shows the number of persons cleansed at these Stations :-

					1946	1945	1944	1943
Scabies	...	...	...	...	937	1,021	1,698	1,588
Other Verminous Conditions				...	446	180	63	58
Total					1,383	1,201	1,761	1,646

At the same time arrangements have been made whereby all reports of verminous conditions, including Scabies, are collected in one register in the Public Health Department. These reports may come from the Education Department, Health Visitors, Sanitary Inspectors, owners or occupiers of premises and other persons or organisations. All premises reported in this category are visited by the Sanitary Inspector and advice given according to the degree of infestation and the general condition of the premises. Steps are taken to ensure that all persons infested with Scabies in the family attend at the Cleansing Centre.

It has not been found necessary to institute proceedings under the Order.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

With two exceptions the chief infectious diseases again showed a marked decrease as compared with immediate preceding years, the exceptions being whooping cough with 215 notified cases as compared with 73 (1945) and 208 (average 5 years 1940-44), and tuberculosis with 103 notified cases against 77 (1945) and 109 (average 5 years 1940-44).

It is again gratifying to note the continued decline in diphtheria, there being only 21 cases notified as against 30 in 1945 and an average of 79 in the five years 1940-44. This figure of notifications is the lowest recorded since 1897 when the population was much less and conditions of both diagnosis and treatment were very different. Although there were only 16 notifications in 1897, there were 7 deaths compared with only one in 1946.

The notification of the various diseases totalled 657 as against 660 the previous year and an average of 1,532 during the five years 1940-1944. Comparative figures are given in the following summary :—

	1946	1945	Average 5 yrs. 1940-44
Scarlet Fever	69	131	203
Diphtheria (1945 includes 1 non-civilian)	21	30	79
Tuberculosis	103	77	109
Pneumonia	25	34	37
Whooping Cough	215	73	208
Measles	194	291	844
C.S. Meningitis	4	3	13
Other Diseases	26	21	39
	<u>657</u>	<u>660</u>	<u>1,532</u>

In addition to the above formal notifications the following cases of infectious diseases were brought to the notice of the Department, chiefly through the medium of schools :—Whooping Cough 85, Measles 30, and Chicken Pox 93.

Marland Infectious Diseases Hospital.

There were 253 cases admitted to this Hospital from the Rochdale County Borough and the neighbouring County Districts, which together with 35 in Hospital on the 31st December, 1945, makes 288 cases treated during the year, as compared with 417 the previous year.

Of the 20 cases of diphtheria occurring in Rochdale and admitted to Marland Hospital 6 cases were of a severe type and there were no deaths ; 10 cases were of moderate severity and 6 cases were of comparatively mild severity with no deaths in these groups. This total included 4 persons who had been immunised.

A summary of the cases admitted to Hospital from Rochdale and other areas is given below :—

DISEASE	In Hospital on 31st December 1945	Admitted during the Year	Discharged	Died	Remain- ing in Hospital at end of Year 1946	Ages of Patients Admitted		
						Under 5 Years	5—15 Years	Above 15 years
Scarlet Fever	10	93	94	...	9	28	55	10
Diphtheria	24	59	78	1	4	5	32	22
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis—								
(1) Cerebro Spinal ... ..	...	7	5	2	...	4	1	2
(2) Tuberculous ... ..	...	2	...	2	...	1	...	1
Measles ... ..	...	6	3	...	3	5	...	1
Erysipelas ... ..	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	...	5	2	1	2	...	...	5
Chicken Pox ... ..	...	2	1	...	1	...	1	1
Other Diseases	1	76	73	3	1	21	4	51
Total	35	253	259	9	20	64	93	96

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The campaign of general propaganda referred to in last years' report was continued throughout the year in support of the national campaign.

The parents or guardians of each child are sent a card explaining the dangers of Diphtheria and the facilities for Diphtheria Immunisation on the child attaining the age of one, and the Health Visitors are provided with special cards which they again leave at the homes in the course of follow-up visits.

Immunisation continues to be available to the same extent as reported last year. These efforts throughout the year were effective in achieving immunisation in respect of 841 under five and 1239 between the ages of 5 and 15.

These figures compare with 763 under five and 443 between the age of 5 and 15 in 1945. The fact of the low number of immunisations in the school age children during 1945 was largely due to staff difficulties in that period.

The records begun in 1942 to show the immunisation position in each group under 15, were continued throughout the year and the results are given below as at the end of December, 1946. It was felt that various factors occurring during the war period would have led to certain anomalies in these records and they were, therefore, subjected to a very thorough check prior to their inclusion in this Report. No comparison with previous years is therefore included on this occasion.

Age	Dec., 1946		Age	Dec., 1946	
	No.	%		No.	%
1	456	37	8	786	76
2	686	55	9	799	75
3	728	60	10	723	70
4	724	61	11	713	71
5	741	70	12	708	65
6	722	74	13	676	71
7	730	77	14	700	66

Throughout the year A.P.T. was used in two doses of 0.2 c.c. and 0.5 c.c. with at least four weeks between doses as the initial course. A second course, usually given about four years after the first, consists of one dose of 0.5 c.c. A.P.T.

During the year we had 11 children under 15 admitted to the hospital suffering from clinical diphtheria. Of these, two were severe cases; four intermediate and five mild cases.

In three of these cases our records show that a full course of immunisation had been given not less than twelve weeks prior to the date of infection. One of these cases was a severe case and two intermediate cases. In addition one death from diphtheria in the 5-15 age group occurred in a child not admitted to Marland Hospital.

There were no deaths in the immunised group.

Immunisation against Diphtheria began in Rochdale in 1933 with a slow growth of numbers of immunised children, so that we may say that it was at least 1935 before a significant percentage of the children in Rochdale were immunised.

If, therefore, 1933 and 1934 are regarded as pre-immunisation years, it is now possible to make a comparison of 12 years since immunisation became established with the 10 years prior to immunisation. In the first period 1925-34

inclusive, Diphtheria caused illness of varying severity in 1,364 cases of which 323 were children below school age and 772 children of school age. These cases resulted in 100 deaths of which 45 and 49 were in the two age groups mentioned.

In the next 12 years, 1935-46 inclusive, there were 948 cases of Diphtheria, 152 under five and 575 of school age. These cases resulted in 42 deaths, 14 in the first age group and 25 in the second.

Antitoxin.

Diphtheria Antitoxin, Scarlatina, Meningococcal and Erysipelas Sera were distributed from the Public Health Department to medical practitioners for use within the Borough. Outside the Department's hours, supplies are available at Marland Hospital.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 87 new cases of tuberculosis notified as against 77 the previous year and 97 in the year 1944, and an average of 109 during the five years 1939-1943.

In addition 16 cases, 12 Pulmonary and 4 Non-pulmonary, came to the knowledge of the Department for the first time other than by notification. Of these 1 Non-pulmonary was reported after death and 12 Pulmonary and 3 Non-pulmonary were transferred from other areas.

Comparative figures are given below :—

Average 5 year periods	NOTIFICATIONS		
	Respiratory	Non- Respiratory	Total
1913—17	184	108	292
1918—22	199	50	249
1923—27	85	40	125
1928—32	85	36	121
1933—37	81	26	107
1938	89	27	116
1939	81	22	103
1940	82	32	114
1941	101	26	127
1942	68	37	105
1943	73	25	98
1944	71	26	97
1945	56	21	77
1946	66	21	87

The following table sets out the number of deaths and mortality rates for the years 1934 and onwards.

Year	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		All Forms	
	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 pop.	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 pop.	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 pop.
1934	60	0.64	7	0.07	67	0.71
1935	55	0.58	6	0.09	61	0.67
1936	49	0.53	17	0.18	63	0.71
1937	50	0.54	14	0.15	64	0.69
1938	44	0.48	5	0.05	49	0.53
1939	41	0.46	6	0.06	47	0.52
1940	51	0.58	12	0.14	63	0.72
1941	53	0.61	11	0.13	64	0.74
1942	44	0.52	5	0.06	49	0.58
1943	36	0.44	10	0.12	46	0.56
1944	39	0.48	10	0.12	49	0.60
1945	32	0.39	6	0.07	38	0.46
1946	31	0.36	11	0.13	42	0.49

The 87 new cases notified, together with the number of deaths resulting from the disease are arranged in the summary below :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1
1—5 years	...	...	2	4	...	...	2	1
5—15 „	4	2	4	1	...	...	2	...
15—25 „	6	7	1	...	11	9	1	3
25—35 „	6	7	1	4				
35—45 „	10	3	...	...	8	...	...	...
45—55 „	5	2	...	1				
55—65 „	8	3	...	1				
65 years and over	2	1	...	1	2	1	...	...
TOTAL	41	25	9	12	21	10	6	5
1945	40	16	11	10	22	10	4	2

The following table gives a summary of the known cases of Tuberculosis in the Borough as at the 31st December, 1946 :—

	Males	Females	Total
Respiratory	221	162	383
Non-Respiratory	90	81	171
	311	243	554

Tuberculosis Officer's Report (Dr. A. H. Heyworth, M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H.).

The year has been a very heavy one in every respect and unremitting toil and care has been the lot of a very small Dispensary staff and a seriously depleted Sanatorium staff.

The shortage of staff at the Springfield Sanatorium was so acute that the number of patients accommodated there had to be reduced from 36 to 32 quite early in the year. When a further shortage of staff was experienced the bed patients had to be evacuated from the Sanatorium to the Marland Hospital as the skeleton staff at the Sanatorium could only just cope with the care of the convalescent patients and the out-patient X-ray and treatment work.

In such a situation only barely essential treatments could be carried out ; no progress could be made in the development of more modern techniques in the treatment of the Tuberculous.

After a process of re-staffing from the Matron down, a return to normal working was gradually accomplished and the patients from the Marland Hospital were returned to the Springfield Sanatorium in September. Since that time the full quota of beds has been in regular use. Eminently satisfactory progress has happily been made in the development of recent advances in technique in treatment.

There has been a change in the mental attitude of the Tuberculous patient undergoing in-patient treatment in a Sanatorium. Whilst recognising that the essentials of treatment are still rest in bed and graduated exercises, good food and regular meals, clean fresh air, freedom from care, a happy atmosphere and efficient nursing, a patient now expects all these plus some form of special treatment and frequent X-ray examinations with a report on progress. The special treatment may be medical or surgical ; the surgical treatment may be Minor Thoracic Surgery—Artificial Pneumothorax, Pneumoperitoneum, Phrenic Nerve Operations or a combination of any of these forms of treatment. To meet these additional requirements of treatment and to cope with a steady increase, year after year, in the work done in the Out-patient X-ray and Treatment Department, an increase in the establishment of the Nursing staff is imperative.

Major Thoracic Surgery cannot be done at the Sanatorium and it would be uneconomical to provide this for such small numbers of patients. County cases requiring major surgery are referred to the Special County Sanatoria for the purpose. This facility was also available for the Borough patients both in the Springfield Sanatorium and in the Wolstenholme Pulmonary Hospital. Increase in the amount of Thoracic Surgery throughout the County has strained their resources and patients have to wait a considerable time, a matter of months, before accommodation is available for them. Arrangements have been made with the Manchester Corporation whose resources are apparently not quite so strained as are those of the County, whereby under what is known as "The Co-ordinated Thoracic Surgery Scheme" the services of a Consultant Thoracic Surgeon are available on a sessional basis to come out to Rochdale to review the cases recommended for major Thoracic surgery by the Tuberculosis Officer, and for those cases in which such surgery is recommended by the surgeon to be admitted to the Baguley Sanatorium for operation. Mr. Graham-Bryce, F.R.C.S., made his first visit to the Dispensary on the 12th December, 1946 when five cases were examined and reviewed. Of these cases two were recommended for admission to the Baguley Sanatorium and three for other treatment and further review.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

There has been no increase in the forms of Tuberculosis other than Pulmonary Tuberculosis, such as Tuberculosis of the regional lymphatic glands and Tuberculosis of the bones and joints. Many of these forms of Tuberculosis are conveyed by milk containing Tubercle Bacilli.

It is certain that with the milk rationing and milk registration regulations adequate supplies of milk have been available for the infant and adolescent population. It is also true that these regulations have had the effect of creating in all classes of the community a proper appreciation of the value of milk as an adequate food for the maintenance of nutrition and of growth. The economic situation has permitted all except a few families to purchase the quantity of milk allotted by rationing to the family and, for the most part, such milk has been consumed by the young persons for whom it was intended. A further milk ration is supplied to school children at school. Never in recent history has so much milk been consumed by that section of the population in which occurs 80% of non-pulmonary forms of Tuberculosis. Looking upon milk as an essential foodstuff of high protein value this is all to the good. On the other hand, raw milk has to be considered as a vehicle for the transmission of Tuberculosis from the cow to the human body. It will have been obvious to all that our dairy herds are in very poor condition as compared with their pre-war quality. It is distressing to see these animals with their scraggy necks, hollow flanks, sunken ribs and bony rumps. There has been a serious shortage in feeding stuffs for cattle. That such herds have not been ravaged with Tuberculosis with serious contamination of the milk supply is an indication of the effectiveness of the operation of the Milk and Dairies Orders and Tuberculosis Regulations. It is, of course, true that all lean cattle are not tubercular and that all tubercular cattle do not give tubercle laden milk.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.

Three clinic sessions have been held weekly and the number of new cases examined as suspected tuberculosis was 357 as against 348 the previous year.

In addition 98 persons were examined as Contacts against 79 the previous year.

The result of the examinations showed that 94, or 26.3 per cent. of the new cases were suffering from some form of tuberculosis, chiefly tuberculosis of the respiratory system, as against 61 or 17.5 per cent. in 1945. Of the 98 Contacts, 5 were found to be definitely tuberculous as compared with one out of 79 the previous year.

In addition 284 men were examined by the Medical Officer chiefly under the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937, Silicosis Scheme and Civilian Medical Boards.

The work in connection with the Dispensary is shown in the summary below :—

	1946	1945
Number of New Cases examined (excl. Contacts) ...	357	348
Total Number of Attendances of Patients ...	2,734	2,532
Average Attendance per Clinic (Year 1946—		
Highest 32—Lowest 3) ...	18	17
Number of Contacts examined ...	98	79
Dressings and Injections carried out during the year	285	130
Tuberculin Patch Tests ...	11	7
Personal and other Consultations by Tuberculosis		
Officer ...	1,194	1,405
Home Visits by Tuberculosis Nurses ...	2,051	2,067
Wasserman Tests taken at the Dispensary		
(Year 1946—Negative 7) ...	9	3
X-ray Examinations ...	369	366
Sputum Examinations ...	240	315

Standard Maintenance Allowance.

The Standard Maintenance Allowances Scheme for Pulmonary Tuberculosis introduced in May, 1943, in accordance with Memo. 266T. has been continued during the year, together with Discretionary Allowances and Special Payments where required.

During the year Standard Allowances have been made to 61 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis coming within the definitions laid down. Special Allowances have been made in 6 cases and Discretionary Allowances have been made in 5 cases.

It is not felt that any further comment need be made on this Scheme, it having already been discussed in previous Annual Reports. In spite of the fact that certain deficiencies and anomalies in the Scheme continue to exist the Scheme is still highly acceptable both to the Tuberculosis Department and to the patients concerned.

There is within the Scheme itself sufficient discretion left to the Local Authority to provide for most of the deserving cases which come to its notice.

Other Financial Assistance.

Necessitous cases of tuberculosis were also assisted in various ways during the year :—

	1946	1945
(a) Clothing and footgear provided	2	4
(b) Extra Nourishment—Milk, Malt and Oil, etc.	15	18
(c) House rent paid from a special Fund during residence of patient in Sanatorium	6	5
(d) Bedstead and Bed Clothing	2	2
(e) Sets of Dentures provided	—	—

Where better housing conditions are necessary in respect of families which include a case of "open tuberculosis" the Council, through its Housing Committee continues to give preference to such cases. Where possible these cases are given priority in the allocation of Corporation houses, but not in such a manner as to create Tuberculosis colonies or groups.

Residential Treatment.

There were 30 patients in residence at various Sanatoria on the 31st December, 1945, and during the year 90 other patients (49 males, 41 females) were admitted as shown in summary below :—

Institutions	Remaining in Hospital at end of 1945	Admissions			Discharged during 1946	Died	Remaining in Hospital at end of 1946
		Total	Males	Females			
Wolstenholme Pulmonary Hospital	8	33	33	—	19	13	9
Springfield Sanatorium	8	29	—	29	16	3	18
Stannington Sanatorium	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Memorial Home, Norden	8	13	6	7	14	1	6
Shropshire Orth. Hospital	2	9	4	5	7	—	4
Other Sanatoria	4	6	6	—	5	1	4
TOTAL	30	90	49	41	61	18	41

Springfield Sanatorium.

This institution, situated adjoining Springfield Park, provides accommodation for 36 female patients, one half of which is reserved for women patients residing in the area of the Lancashire County Council. In addition to 29 Rochdale patients admitted there were 24 patients admitted from the Lancashire County, making 53 in total, as against 58 the previous year.

Artificial Pneumothorax Inductions were successful in 3 cases, 2 of Borough patients and 1 of a County patient ; 1 induction was unsuccessful in the case of a Borough patient, and, Pneumoperitoneum Induction was successful in a Borough case, 202 Refills were performed ; 185 to Borough patients and 17 to County patients.

Phrenic Evulsion was performed in 4 cases of County patients.

396 X-ray examinations (with films) were made during the year ; 279 of these were of out-patients from the County Borough ; 87 were of in-patients of the Sanatorium (46 being Borough cases and 41 being Lancashire County Council cases) ; and 30 examinations were of Nursing Staff contacts of these patients.

A further 172 X-ray examinations without films, i.e., screen examinations, were made during the course of, and as a guide to, treatment ; of these, 129 examinations were on behalf of Borough in-patients and out-patients, 41 on behalf of Lancashire County Council in-patients, and 2 of Nursing Staff contacts.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and Public Health Act, 1925 (Section 62).

The former relates to persons engaged in the milk or dairy trade who are suffering from tuberculosis, whilst the latter confers powers for the removal to hospital of infectious persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. No occasion has risen during the year where it has been found necessary to make use of the powers conferred by this Act and Regulation.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

No change has taken place in the clinic arrangements for dealing with this disease. There were 882 cases (576 males and 306 females) dealt with during the year, as against 648 in 1945. The number of new cases was 555 which is above the average for the years prior to the war.

The following summary gives the number of cases dealt with during the past three years :—

	Year	1946	1945	1944
1.	No. of persons under treatment or observation at commencement of year	245	282	226
2.	No. of persons who ceased to attend in previous years and who returned to the Centre suffering from the same infection	5	8	6
3.	No. of cases who have had previous treatment	77	32	13
4.	No. of new cases	555	326	320
Total cases dealt with		882	648	565
5.	Total attendances—For attention of Medical Officer	7,452	6,074	6,366
	For irrigation, dressing etc.	6,493	5,566	6,581
6.	No. who ceased to attend—			
	(a) Before completion of treatment ...	20	35	21
	(b) After completion of treatment, but before final tests as to cure	8	—	—
7.	No. discharged after completion of treatment and final test of cure or after diagnosis as non-venereal	330	344	245

Pathological Examinations.

The arrangement with the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, for pathological work has been continued. The specimens referred from the clinic and examined at the Laboratory number 1,448 as compared with 762 the previous year.

Venereal Diseases Officer's Report (Dr. A. H. Heyworth, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

The year under review is the first complete year since the commencement of hostilities in which the situation with regard to Venereal Diseases can be compared with that of pre-war years.

During the war the number of cases attending the Clinic was much reduced owing to so many of our young adults of both sexes being away from the town on service with H.M. Forces. Cases of Venereal Disease occurring in service personnel were treated, for the most part, within the Service and civilian clinics were only called upon to provide certain emergency services and intermediate treatment to service personnel on leave in the town, also to take over continuation treatment of V.D. cases discharged from the Forces. If these cases were to be taken into account, then the total yearly incidence of Venereal Disease in Rochdale for each of the war-time years would be considerably above the normal peace-time incidence.

In 1946, 36 cases of Syphilis and 26 cases of Gonorrhoea, all in males, were transferred to the Clinic from Military Authorities for continuation of treatment after discharge from the Services. Excluding these cases, the numbers of new

cases of early Syphilis, of early Gonorrhoea and of Non-venereal cases are the highest on record since this Clinic was established in the Baillie Street premises in December, 1933.

Cases of early Syphilis numbered 107, (69 male, 38 female). Of these, 59 cases (44 male, 15 female) were in the Primary stage and 48 cases (25 male, 23 female) in the Secondary Stage. The ratio of primary cases to secondary cases is again much higher than the average for the rest of the country. This unusually high ratio has been a feature of the Clinic for many years, it was remarked upon in the Annual Report of 1934 and was the subject of an enquiry by the Ministry of Health in the same year.

Since much of the success in treatment depends on the earliness of the stage of the disease when treatment is commenced, it is gratifying to have such a high proportion of early cases finding their way to the Clinic.

I believe that it is becoming generally realised that promptitude in treatment means successful treatment and that it is this knowledge that has urged the attendance at the Clinic during the year of 194 cases (146 male and 48 female) who on examination and investigation were found to be suffering from non-specific infections and other non-venereal conditions.

Cases of early Gonorrhoea numbered 234 (166 male, 68 female) and although these are the highest numbers on record for any single year, it is felt that these figures may not represent the true incidence of Gonorrhoea in the town.

Undoubtedly, the introduction of the Sulphonamide group of drugs has made it possible for an increased number of cases of Gonorrhoea to attend their own doctors for treatment and it would appear that in the majority of cases such treatment is carried out successfully. This results in a decreased proportion of cases coming to the Clinic. It is true that the Clinic ultimately receives a small number of cases whose treatment outside the Clinic has been unsuccessful, but we have no means of knowing what percentage of failure these represent. Under the present organisation of general medical practice and without the compulsory notification of venereal disease, the actual incidence of Gonorrhoea can only be approximately estimated.

Previous to the introduction of the Sulphonamides the incidence of Gonorrhoea throughout the country was four times greater than the incidence of Syphilis. In 1938, in Rochdale the incidence of Gonorrhoea had fallen to three times that of Syphilis; in 1939 to two and a half times; in 1946 the ratio is roughly two and a quarter times. Since both the Sulphonamide group of drugs and the bacterial product Penicillin are marvellously effective agents in the cure of Gonorrhoea when their administration is properly controlled, it is to be expected that the incidence of Gonorrhoea will be still further reduced. Unfortunately, in a way, the efficacy of the agents is very well known to the

sexually promiscuous and the risk of venereal infection is no longer a deterrent to promiscuity since the known chances of cure are so much greater than the unknown risks of uncured infection. During the war Sulphonamides could be bought from American soldiers in public houses and elsewhere and there was a good deal of self treatment by individuals without any medical control. Even now Sulphonamides are easy to obtain and the self-treatment continues. In many cases cures are not effected by these haphazard means and the disease becomes sub-acute, latent or chronic and a long period of infectivity persists in apparently cured cases. These incompletely cured cases are great disseminators of the disease. It is important that the treatment of Venereal Disease should only be undertaken at Specialist Clinics or by medical practitioners trained in this work.

Now that the war is over with its disruption of family life, its attack upon moral codes and, in particular, its opportunity and excuse for the utmost license in matters of sex, the incidence of Gonorrhoea should fall abruptly. There is a cure at the Clinic and there appears to be no lack of willingness to attend the Clinic and attend promptly. There will be a residuum of infection in the prostitute, amateur or professional as, though treatment in these cases may be repeatedly sought and cures repeatedly effected, re-infection occurs so quickly that she is potentially an infective agent throughout her active life. This is not the case in Syphilis where the infection becomes latent after some two years, so that the woman no longer spreads the infection nor becomes re-infected. The incidence of Gonorrhoea may be regarded as an index of settled prostitution whereas the incidence of Syphilis is more indicative of the state of new recruitment to the profession.

The Sulphonamides are of no use at all in the treatment of Syphilis and have no effect whatever on the incidence of the disease. The incidence of Syphilis has already begun to decline and should continue gradually to fall as the infectivity of the newly recruited prostitutes declines and as more and more infected cases attend Treatment Centres earlier and earlier in the stage of the disease and before passing on the infection to another party. It is not to the advantage of the public that a prostitute should be completely cured of Syphilis, since, on re-infection she would suffer another period of infectivity for say six months to two years and during that time she might pass on the disease to many other people. Sufficient treatment should be given so as to make her non-infectious to others and the disease latent in herself.

Penicillin has been found to be a most useful agent in the treatment of Syphilis and especially so in the treatment of early cases of acquired Syphilis and congenital Syphilis in the young. By combining the treatment with Arsenical and Bismuth preparations it has been possible to shorten the courses of treatment of Primary and Secondary Stages of Syphilis from 26, 34 and 46 weeks to intensive combined courses of 10 weeks. In these cases where the water-soluble form of Penicillin is the choice of treatment employed it is necessary to have some 10 days in-patient treatment in hospital. Commencing in 1945 the fullest

possible co-operation has been given by both the Marland and Birch Hill Hospitals in the provision of bed accommodation and nursing services required for this treatment. Since the oil and wax preparation of Penicillin become more generally available increasing use of this preparation has been made as the courses of treatment can be given at the Clinic. The resident Orderly, Mr. J. Leach, has made it practicable to open the Clinic for these special cases at 7-0 a.m. every week-day for approximately one week out of every four. Cases have morning and evening injections at twelve hourly intervals to a total of ten injections and then continue ordinary attendance for arsenical and bismuth preparations—usually before going to work in the mornings and on returning from work in the evenings. The co-operation of Mr. Leach in this regard has been of the greatest service.

Regulation 33B.

The operation of Regulation 33B has not affected the attendances at the Clinic much. Since 1934 it has been customary to interrogate an infected case as to the source of the infection and then to communicate by letter with the alleged source of infection offering the facilities of the Clinic for examination, investigation and treatment. Where no response has been elicited by letter, efforts have been made to secure contact with the suspected source, if resident within the County Borough area, by means of home visits to female cases by the Health Visitor, Mrs. Moody, and to male cases by the Resident Orderly, Mr. Leach. Most male cases of infection will readily give the names and addresses of the believed source of their infection where such particulars are known, whereas female patients are most reluctant to reveal any such information.

Under the Regulation compulsory attendance for treatment was ordered in two cases. Of these cases, one was prosecuted for failure to attend and continue with treatment. She had been the source of many infections. She was found “guilty” and sentenced to three months imprisonment.

**TABLE I.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1946,
and previous years.**

Year	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	LIVE BIRTHS		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Nett		Under 1 year of age		At All Ages	
		Number	Rate per 1,000 of est. population	Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Live Births	Number	Rate per 1,000 of est. population
1936	93,250	1096	11.8	76	69	1408	15.1
1937	91,940	1093	11.9	58	53	1415	15.4
1938	91,290	1096	12.0	69	63	1271	13.9
1939	*90,300	997	11.0	55	55	1322	14.7
1940	†86,670	1072	12.4	96	89	1575	18.2
1941	†85,780	1136	13.2	76	67	1371	16.0
1942	†83,150	1276	15.3	90	71	1282	15.4
1943	†81,550	1268	15.5	58	46	1324	16.2
1944	†81,380	1320	16.2	67	50	1174	14.4
1945	81,100	1267	15.6	56	44	1263	15.5
Average for years 1936-1945	86,641	1162	13.4	70	60	1340	15.4
1946	†85,200	1521	17.8	75	49	1272	14.9

* Estimated Population for Birth-rate. The corresponding figure for Death-rate is 89,830.

† „ Civilian Population

TABLE II.
CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE.
Year 1946.

	All Ages	0-	1-	5-	15-	45-	65-
ALL CAUSES ... Males ...	648	41	11	9	39	194	354
... Females	624	34	7	5	54	128	396
1—Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2—Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
3—Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4—Whooping Cough	3	2	1	...	...	...	...
5—Diphtheria	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
6—Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	31	...	...	...	20	8	3
7—Other Forms of Tuberculosis	11	2	3	2	4	...	...
8—Syphilitic Disease	2	...	...	...	1	1	...
9—Influenza	14	...	...	...	1	3	10
10—Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11—Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12—Acute Infectious Encephalitis	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
13—Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Œsophagus	8	...	...	...	...	1	7
Cancer of Uterus	6	...	...	...	...	2	4
14—Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	36	...	...	...	...	12	24
15—Cancer of Breast	21	...	...	...	3	8	10
16—Cancer of all other sites	105	...	...	...	7	45	53
17—Diabetes	13	...	...	1	1	5	6
18—Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	157	1	...	...	...	34	122
19—Heart Disease	321	...	...	4	22	90	205
20—Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	113	...	...	...	...	14	99
21—Bronchitis	97	1	...	...	3	28	65
22—Pneumonia	45	11	5	...	1	13	15
23—Other Respiratory Diseases	15	...	...	1	3	7	4
24—Ulceration of the Stomach or Duodenum	6	...	...	...	1	2	3
25—Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	3	3	...	...	...	...	...
26—Appendicitis	2	...	...	...	...	2	...
27—Other Digestive Diseases	20	...	1	...	...	4	15
28—Nephritis	33	...	1	...	2	9	21
29—Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30—Other Maternal Causes	3	...	...	...	3	...	...
31—Premature Birth	28	28	...	...	...	...	...
32—Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease	29	22	4	...	2	1	...
33—Suicide	12	...	...	...	4	6	2
34—Road Traffic Accidents	9	...	1	1	4	1	2
35—Other Violent Causes	21	3	1	1	2	5	9
36—All Other Causes	105	2	1	3	7	21	71

TABLE III.
INFANT MORTALITY.—Nett Deaths from stated causes at various
Ages under one year of age—Year 1946.

CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH				AGE AT DEATH					Total Deaths under 1 year	
				Under 4 weeks	4 weeks to 3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months		
									1946	1945
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tubercular Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	1
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	3	4	4	...	...	11	13
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	3	2
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth	...	...	...	27	1	...	...	...	28	24
Congenital Debility, Malformations, etc.	...	...	...	15	5	1	...	1	22	8
Violence	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	3	2
Other Causes	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	3	2
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	47	15	6	5	2	75	56

Nett Live Births in the year :—Legitimate 1,412 ; Illegitimate 109.

Nett Deaths in the year :—Legitimate infants 66 ; Illegitimate infants 9.

REPORT
ON THE
MEDICAL INSPECTION OF
SCHOOL CHILDREN.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF ROCHDALE

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1946, being the thirty-ninth report on the work of the School Medical Service.

Staff.

In September, 1946, a second full-time Assistant School Medical Officer was appointed and this Officer joined the staff on October 14th 1946. Apart from this, the medical staff remains as before.

The dental staff now consists of a Senior Dental Officer, two full-time Assistant Dental Officers and three Dental Attendants.

A Speech Therapist was appointed in September, 1946.

Routine Medical Inspection.

All the schools have been visited for routine medical inspection during the year. Since the appointment of a second Assistant Medical Officer, the examination of entrants, as well as the eight and twelve year old groups, has been resumed. This will be continued as long as we are fully staffed.

Total Inspections during the year by the Medical Officers :—

					1945	1946
					<hr/>	<hr/>
Routine Inspections :—						
Elementary Schools	...	...	...	...	2,517	2,278
Secondary Schools	...	...	...	...	556	298
Special Inspections	...	...	...	...	319	465
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	123	206
Open Air School Inspections	...	...	...	...	2,393	2,691
Clinic Inspections	...	...	...	...	2,664	2,114
Clinic Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	2,354	1,787
Special Examinations :—						
Part-time employment, Court cases, etc.	...				407	433
					<hr/>	<hr/>
					11,333	10,272
					<hr/>	<hr/>
Cases seen by Ophthalmologist	...	...	...	...	552	535
Cases seen by Aurist	...	...	...	...	274	745
Cases seen by Honorary Orthopaedic Surgeon	...				173	176

The above figures do not show any numerical increase on 1945 in spite of extra staff. This is due to 1945 having been itself a year of special effort. The additional School Medical Officer took up duties late on in the year and the additional assistance was utilised more in respect of special cases than in building up "Routines."

Ear, Nose and Throat cases seen by the Aurist are markedly increased, this is partly a genuine increase and partly due to a serious attempt to reduce the waiting list by holding additional clinics.

Uncleanliness.

The School Nurses made 14,324 inspections during 1946 and found 89.3% children clean and 10.7% unclean. This is an improvement on the figures for 1945 (86.64% Clean). 140 children were cleansed at the Centre (66 in 1945). The use of D.D.T. has been continued. From the School Nurses' point of view, D.D.T. has considerable disadvantages inherent in any cleansing method which leaves nits in situ, because it is quite possible to see a child in school who has been recently treated with D.D.T., but with hair still full of nits and, unless the nurse knows about the treatment, she must treat the child as a newly found verminous infestation. Also, the many proprietary preparations on the market said to "contain D.D.T." seem to vary very much in their insecticidal properties. These, together with the inefficient methods of application so often used by parents of verminous children, make it very difficult to know, except by process of time, whether a head has been adequately treated or not. Recently the staff at the Cleansing Centre have, so far as time allows, removed nits mechanically in addition to treating with D.D.T. and this would seem to be an entirely satisfactory method of cleansing. As always, our chief difficulty is reinfestation from older members of the child's family.

Scabies.

The following numbers were dealt with during the year, these figures at last show a decrease.

	1945	1946
Scabies diagnosed	581	359
Cases treated at Centre	573	358
Home treatments	—	1
Referred by family doctor	—	53
Awaiting treatment	8	—

Findings of Medical Inspection.

It cannot be said that there has been any change in the general health of our children during the past year. A pleasant feature of the work has been the gradual return of fathers from H.M. Forces and it has been noticeable that many of these fathers have learnt during their war service better to appreciate the preventive aspects of medicine. During their demobilisation leave numbers of fathers have accompanied their children to the School Clinic and have shown a most intelligent interest in their welfare.

Unfortunately, from the children's point of view, many mothers still go out to work and nothing has altered our opinion that whatever facilities are provided at school in the way of meals, milk, etc., the children of working mothers are not as well cared for as those whose mothers are at home, even though there may be more money to spend when the mother works. Often enough, however, by the time "minding" money, laundry, bus fares, etc., have been paid, the mother's outside labour results in only a very small increase in the family exchequer.

There has been a small but definite improvement in the conditions of children's heads at the Nurses' cleanliness inspections during 1946. This work has been rather depressing during the war years when conditions for some time steadily deteriorated; the figures for 1945 were the same as in 1944 and this year's improvement, even if small, is welcomed.

When the staff are interviewing the parents of children who are of sub-normal physical condition, they find, time after time, that these parents have no doubt that the blame lies upon unsatisfactory housing conditions, dampness, overcrowding and lack of air and sunshine. There is certainly no doubt that children from such homes improve rapidly on residential treatment in the Memorial Home, but steadily relapse on return home. The fact that some of these relapses occur in children transferred to the Day Open Air School shows that nothing less than improved residential conditions will answer the problem. Until the housing programme is completed we can do nothing to ensure that such children can be permanently cured. To-day, lack of financial resources is never given as a reason for a child's poor health or malnutrition, in fact a frequent remark of parents is "I don't know why he should be so thin, he gets the best of everything" and this is often found to be true, all kinds of dainties being bought to supplement the rations. A very different state of affairs existed ten or twelve years ago when the shops were full of food, but many could not afford to feed their children well.

Children's priorities in food have shown the most marked result where improvement was most needed. The inequality in the condition of children in "good" as compared with "poor" schools is much less marked than formerly. Indeed, recent inspections of a boys' central school and a large elementary church school showed that at the former the children were less tidy, less clean and had less healthy mouths than at the latter; exactly the reverse of the findings in former years.

Fortunately, it has been possible during the past year for the number of home visits to be very much increased. The information obtained by a really good home visitor is of the greatest value in deciding the treatment of many cases, especially where a "nervous" element is found, such as in the allergies and the stammers. Such home visiting is highly skilled work and takes up a good deal of time and not all school nurses are successful at it, even when highly trained and competent in other branches of the work.

Minor Ailment Clinic.

The total attendances during 1946 were 13,317 and the individual cases numbered 5,224. The clinic was closed for the public holidays for a fortnight during August and, unfortunately, for nearly three weeks during November while badly needed painting and decorating was done. During this period the school nurses did as many dressings as possible at schools.

Defective Vision.

The ophthalmologist held 43 clinics and did 563 refractions. Our chief difficulty is the length of time which elapses between the order and the delivery of glasses, especially those with cylindrical lenses.

Work of the School Nurses.

	1945	1946
Dressings at morning clinics	16,171	14,745
Cleanliness Inspections	14,489	12,510
Re-inspections	3,086	1,814
Inspections with Medical Officers :—		
At School	8,425	3,247
At Clinic	5,018	3,901
Refractions	552	535
Open Air School Inspections	2,393	2,691
Aurist's Clinic	585	745
Home Visits	95	268
	<u>50,814</u>	<u>40,456</u>

Infectious Diseases.

	1945	1946
Scarlet Fever	93	51
Diphtheria	13	8
Measles	145	151
Whooping Cough	34	154
Chicken Pox	90	93
German Measles	—	3
Other Infections	1	—
	<u>376</u>	<u>460</u>

Day Open Air School.

Again seventy four children have been discharged during the year. They had been admitted for a large variety of conditions. One child with severe and progressive heart disease left to go into hospital where he died ; another child died following a fall at her home. The others all received much benefit from their stay at the school.

	Girls	Boys
Rheumatism	1	—
Malnutrition	3	5
Pre- and Post-Tuberculosis	7	5
Heart Disease	2	3
Non-tubercular chest conditions	2	4
Nervous conditions	4	4
Orthopaedic defects	2	2
Anaemia and Debility	9	9
Physical Immaturity	—	1
Infantile Hemiplegia	—	1
Chronic Blepharitis or Keratitis	1	1
Furunculosis	1	—
Infantile paralysis	—	1
Cases for observations	3	3
	<hr/> 35 <hr/>	<hr/> 39 <hr/>

Six of these children were admitted for observation being those whose history as given by parents or guardians was too vague for a diagnosis to be made, such as the case with " little faints " where it is impossible without skilled observation to decide whether the child actually does faint, or is suffering from petit mal or hysterical attacks.

Of these six cases one was found to be definitely epileptic and was admitted to a special school for epileptics. Another who was enuretic was referred to the Child Guidance Clinic for treatment. The other four who suffered from hysteria, facial tic, petit mal, and general nervousness and irritability, all improved sufficiently to return to elementary schools later.

Dental Report submitted by the Senior Dental Officer, Mr. H. P. Gledsdale, L.D.S.

During the year sixty-five school departments have been visited for routine Dental Inspection, 9,137 children being examined, in addition 379 children were inspected as specials, making a total of 9,516 children examined. Of these 3,868 found to require treatment ; 2,194 being actually treated and 3,091 attendances were made for various operations. Teeth extracted numbered 1,482 and 3,057 were conserved.

Until March the staff consisted of only one dentist, Mr. Bickerdyke having resigned in September, 1945. In March Mr. Gledsdale returned to duty from active service and was appointed Senior Dental Officer, and in September an additional Assistant Dental Officer, Miss J. M. Andrews, L.D.S., commenced duty. The staff was further augmented in November by the appointment of a third Dental Attendant.

The whole service is now in the process of re-organisation and for this purpose the town has been divided into three areas served by five clinics with administration centralised in the Senior Dental Officer's Department. Owing to the great difficulty in obtaining equipment due to manufacturing conditions and the absence of supplies from abroad it has not been possible to put the scheme into full operation, but the clinic serving the Balderstone area was brought into full operation in November, and it is expected that the other two, Brimrod and Norden, will be in use during 1947, although the Norden premises have yet to be de-requisitioned.

The full benefit of the scheme will not be apparent until the end of 1947, but there will be a very modern and well equipped service in operation at that date.

The general condition of the children is encouraging, and several improvements are noted on surveying the area after absence for a period. The amount of treatment needed by the pre-school child and five year entrants is considerably less than in pre-war days, the result of better ante-natal care and greater interest in infant diet and welfare.

The older child, however, does not show the same immunity from dental caries there being greater incidence of dental disease from the age of nine years.

It is notable that in 1939, 4,038 teeth were extracted including 751 permanent, whilst in 1946 extractions numbered 1,482, 161 being permanent teeth. This indicates a considerable improvement in the dental health of the school population and the advantages of regular systematic treatment.

The service is generally well received and many of the schools show a high acceptance rate. Parental ignorance of the value of a sound dentition, although slowly diminishing, is the chief obstacle, and the tendency to let older children decide whether they will have treatment or not, undoes much of the work done by the service in earlier years.

School Inspections.

Departments visited	...	...	...	...	...	65
Number of children inspected (Routine)	...	...	...	...	...	9,137
Number of children requiring treatment	...	...	...	...	...	3,868

Routine Age Groups Inspected.

3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
154	369	826	900	927	870	873	921	786	912	896	366	174	120	36	7

Routine Treatment.

Sessions for Inspection...	...	...	...	...	100	}	768
Sessions for Treatment	...	...	...	...	668		
Routine attendances	...	...	...	...	2,712	}	3,091
Special attendances	...	...	...	...	379		
Number actually treated	.	...	...	...			2,194

					Temporary	Permanent	Total
Extractions	...	...	...	...	1,321	161	1,482
Fillings	...	...	...	...	272	2,785	3,057
Other operations	...	...	...	...	—	207	}
Silver Nitrates	...	...	...	...	529	276	
Scalings	...	...	...	...	—	40	
Root Dressings	...	...	...	...	—	8	
Dressings	...	...	...	...	—	44	}
General anaesthetics...	...	...	...	...	—	—
							195

Speech Clinic Report submitted by the Therapist, Miss J. M. Hayward L.C.S.T. (from 1st September to 31st December, 1946).

Cases on list 2nd September, 1946	...	...	...	...	...	42
Cases referred between 2nd September and 31st December	...	...	...	...	...	213
Referred by Medical Officers	...	...	...	...	...	62
Referred by Head Teachers	...	...	...	...	...	193
Total No. of cases on list up to 31st December, 1946	...	...	...	...	...	255
Cases receiving treatment during the period from 1st September to the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	50
Cases suspended	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cases discharged after treatment	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cases attending on 31st December, 1946	...	...	...	...	...	45
Cases not requiring treatment	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cases refusing treatment	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cases not yet seen	...	...	...	...	...	27
Cases awaiting treatment	...	...	...	...	...	166

Types of Defects Treated.

Stammers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Severe Dyslalia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Moderate Dyslalia...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Nasality	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sigmatism	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Lisp	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cleft Palate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Deafness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dysarthria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Mute	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dyslalia and Stammer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
									<hr/> 50 <hr/>

Discharges.

Three boys were discharged during December. Two left school and one left the district. In the first two cases there was a considerable improvement in speech.

Schools Attended.

				Boys	Girls	Total
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
High Schools	...	...	...	2	—	2
Central Schools	...	...	...	—	2	2
Church Schools	...	...	...	13	1	14
Provided Schools	...	...	...	18	8	26
Open Air School	...	...	...	2	—	2
Not at School	...	...	...	3	—	3
Nursery Schools	...	...	...	—	1	1
				<hr/> 38 <hr/>	<hr/> 12 <hr/>	<hr/> 50 <hr/>

Duties commenced on the 2nd September, 1946. The clinic opened for treatment on the 18th September, 1946. During the period between 2nd September and 31st December, 1946, 23 schools have been visited.

Interviews.

All parents of the fifty children receiving treatment have been interviewed at least on one occasion. School teachers and head teachers have also been consulted.

Two children have been referred to the Child Guidance Clinic.

One child has undergone a Cleft Palate operation at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, Pendlebury.

One Child has been referred to Mr. Smith for tonsillectomy.

In October the clinic was visited by a Social Science Student from Manchester University and a pupil from Rochdale High School for Girls, the latter wishing to take up Speech Therapy.

Child Guidance Clinic.

The following report refers to the work done at this Clinic from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1946, and has been supplied by the Medical Director, Dr. W. L. Devlin. In view of the fact that this Clinic has been working on a restricted basis during the year the report is presented in a modified form as compared with previous years.

TABLE I.

Number referred ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Awaiting examination ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Awaiting treatment ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Sources of referral :—								
School Medical Department	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Education Department	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Speech Therapist	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Maternity and Child Welfare Department	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Doctor	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

TABLE II.

Cases dealt with 1946.

New cases ...	...	...	5	{ suitable for treatment ...	4
				{ recommended for Special School	1
Completed treatment	...	16		{ adjusted ...	4
				{ much improved ...	8
				{ improved ...	4
Still attending	...	...	9		
Withdrawn from waiting list			6		

“ At my request the staff of the School Medical and Education Departments have only referred very urgent cases during the year. The continued lack of a Psychiatric Social Worker constituted, of course, a very serious problem ; and explains the reduction in the amount of diagnostic work and of therapy which it has been possible to undertake. The children who have been on the treatment list, however, have attended regularly on the whole and co-operated very well. It was considered advisable in view of the shortage of staff to devote nearly all of the available time to treatment, so that only very urgent new cases were seen.

We would again like to tender our sincere thanks to the Medical Officer of Health and his staff, and the Director of Education and his staff for their valued help and co-operation.”

Signed, W. L. DEVLIN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Director.

Nursery Schools and Meanwood Nursery Class.

All children in the Nursery Schools were inspected in the course of the year. Special cases requiring medical treatment and those of substandard nutrition were frequently re-inspected.

The standard of nutrition was fairly good. Only 19 out of 402 examined (4.7%) were category "C." There was no child in category "D."

Chief defects noted were enlarged tonsils and adenoids, nasal catarrh, otorrhoea and strabismus. The percentage of children who had nasal catarrh at their first examination was as follows :—

Brimrod	14 out of 44—32%
Thames St.	14 out of 43—32%
Howard St.	18 out of 43—42%
South St.	13 out of 37—35%
Meanwood	6 out of 27—22%

A "spot" examination for nasal catarrh was made in December at all the schools. The totals were as follows :—

Brimrod	34 out of 46—51%
Thames St.	44 out of 70—63%
Howard St.	36 out of 62—58%
South St.	41 out of 64—64%
Meanwood	17 out of 31—55%

The above figures suggest that many children become infected at the Nursery School and the condition is maintained by persistent cross-infection.

In order to reduce the incidence of nasal catarrh, teachers were advised to have the children's noses cleared by blowing at each cleaning time and to have nasal drops instilled in severe cases. This is now being done. Cases due to enlarged tonsils and adenoids were referred to the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.

Infestation with nits and vermin continued to prove troublesome especially at South Street and Thames Street schools, which showed a higher percentage of infestation every month than at Brimrod and Howard Street schools. Investigation into this significant difference was first of all directed to the possibility of any differing standards at the Nursery Schools or in the Health Visitor staff who carry out these inspections. This possibility was quickly eliminated and attention was, therefore, turned to the home conditions. A survey was made of the position of the families concerned in regard to first, the size of the family, counting children under 15, and the relationship of the mother to employment outside the home. It was considered that these two factors were an indication of the relative degree of maternal time and care which could be devoted to the individual child.

The results of this investigation given below showed that relatively less of the mothers' time was available to the children attending South Street and Thames Street schools than to those attending Brimrod and Howard Street schools.

SCHOOL	Families with less than 3 children under 15 years	Families with 3 or more children under 15 years	Families with mother at home	Families with mother at P. time or W. time work
Brimrod	56	19	50	25
Howard St.	54	14	36	32
South St.	43	28	14	57
Thames St.	37	26	19	44

Additional weight was given to these figures by the fact that of 22 persistent offenders, 15 mothers were at part or whole time work and only two mothers were reported as keeping a dirty home.

From this investigation and very general information, it would appear, therefore, that in the schools concerned neglect due to indifference and laziness plays only a small part in the maintenance of the verminous condition in the children. The chief source of infestation appears to be those children whose mothers are compelled to go out to part or whole time work.

Children were referred to the following clinics :—

Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic	...	...	...	20
Ophthalmic Clinic	...	...	...	8
Orthopaedic Clinic	...	...	...	4
Dental Clinic	...	...	...	4
Child Guidance Clinic	...	...	...	1
Speech Clinic	...	...	...	1

Diphtheria immunisation was carried out at all schools and practically 100% of the children have been immunised.

A measles epidemic in December reduced attendances, but it appears to have been of a mild type and there have been few sequelae.

There had been no case of enteritis notified during the year—a remarkable tribute to the standard of cleanliness maintained in the kitchens and in the schools.

Orthopaedic Clinic.

Dr. Bateman treated 167 new cases during 1946 and we are as much indebted as ever to him for his skillful and careful work.

	1945	1946
Genu-valgum	—	14
Genu-varum	—	4
Kyphosis, scoliosis, lordosis	11	15
Foot deformities	123	70
Postural defects	10	11
Torticollis	4	1
Miscellaneous	15	20
	<u>163</u>	<u>135</u>

In-Patient Treatment of Debility.

Dr. Bateman has also examined 32 children suffering from debility and found them suitable for admission to the Memorial Home. Admission under this scheme continues to be a most valuable measure in the treatment of our debilitated children, especially the young ones aged five, six or seven.

Handicapped Pupils.

A complete list of ascertained handicap among our children was entered on Form 1.M. for the Ministry of Education. The ascertained cases in Rochdale are as follows :—

A. Blind Pupils	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
B. Partially Sighted Pupils	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
C. Deaf Pupils	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
D. Partially Deaf Pupils	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
E. Delicate Pupils	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	113
F. Diabetic Pupils	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
G. Educationally Sub-normal Pupils	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	227
H. Epileptic Pupils	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
I. Maladjusted Pupils	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
J. Physically Handicapped Pupils	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
K. Pupils suffering from Speech Defect	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	225
L. Pupils suffering from Multiple Disabilities	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

The figures may be considered complete as far as Categories A., B., C., D., F., H., J. and K., approximately complete for Categories E. and I., but grossly inadequate for Category G.

Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.

During 1946, 745 new cases were referred to this Clinic : 187 of them received operative treatment mainly for removal of tonsils and adenoids, and 558 received other forms of treatment. In addition, the consultant, Dr. V. Smith, made 432 re-examinations. The arrangements made some years ago are still in force, whereby the Clinic is held at the Infirmary : tonsillectomies are done at the Municipal Hospital and other operative treatment is performed at the Infirmary. Local treatment is given at the Minor Ailments Clinic.

The great increase in attendances at this Clinic is due to a determined attempt to reduce the waiting list which had become rather large and to increased confidence on the part of parents in the benefits of the Clinic. On two occasions a special extra consultation clinic was held at the School Clinic and over thirty children with enlarged tonsils and adenoids attended each.

Although there was a big increase in the number of new cases referred to the Clinic, the number which received operative treatment was not increased. A much bigger number of children received other forms of treatment or were kept under observation.

The increase on this side of the Clinic's work is very much appreciated by the staff and is one of the main factors leading to the increased confidence of the parents in this Clinic.

Provision of Meals.

The following alterations have been made in Canteen arrangements during 1946.

A canteen was installed at Balderstone C. of E. School to accommodate children who had previously travelled to the William Henry Street Canteen. Another was opened at Healey C. of E. School, from which children formerly had to travel to Cronkeyshaw Canteen.

There are now only six schools without their canteens on their own premises—Halifax Road School, Meanwood School, St. Edward's C. of E. School, St. John's R. C. School, St. Patrick's R. C. School and Thornham C. of E. School. Of these six, four have premises rented for them. Pupils of St. Edward's C. of E. School travel to Castleton School Canteen. There is no provision at present for the pupils of Thornham C. of E. School to have school meals. At these two schools, however, canteens will be opened in the near future, and final arrangements for this are now being made.

There are now thirty-four canteens in use by the School Meals Service. Plans to meet the increasing demands for school meals are at present in the hands of the Ministry of Works and it is anticipated that work on new kitchens and canteens will be started in the near future.

During 1946, 27,892 free dinners have been supplied (17,755 in 1945). The number of dinners for which payment was made was 644,220 (458,886 in 1945) These figures do not include meals supplied to pupils at the Open Air School or at the Nursery Schools.

Co-operation of Voluntary Bodies.

Our thanks are again due to the National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the St. Anne's Convalescent Home and the Moorland Home for their help.

Employment of Children and Young Persons.

The number of school children medically examined prior to registration as part-time workers was 209 during 1946.

Superannuation Act, 1937.

70 Persons were examined by the School Medical Officers during 1946 for the purposes of this Act.

Educationally Sub-normal Children.

We have still no special school or class in Rochdale for the education of educationally sub-normal children, but we have 227 children ascertained as such and this work of ascertainment continues as time can be spared for it.

Cost of Medical Inspection.

The cost of this Department from the 1st April, 1945, to the 31st March, 1946, was as follows :—

							£	s.	d.
Salaries	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,531	18	2
Printing, Stationery and Postage	...	...	...	...	...	...	106	14	5
Drugs, Materials, Apparatus, Spectacles	...	...	...	...	...	...	411	17	10
Hospitals, Nursing Associations, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,148	11	0
Travelling	...	...	...	...	...	...	78	8	8
Rent	...	...	...	...	...	...	473	7	0
Upkeep of Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	17	1
Fuel, Light and Cleaning	...	...	...	...	...	...	215	5	11
Cleansing of Pupils	...	...	...	...	...	...	699	17	6
Conveyance of Children	...	...	...	...	...	...	74	2	8
Other Expenses...	...	...	...	...	...	...	69	7	2
Child Guidance Clinic	...	...	...	...	...	...	503	10	10
							<hr/> £8,334 18 3 <hr/>		
Recovered from parents	...	...	...	...	...	...	£25	9	0

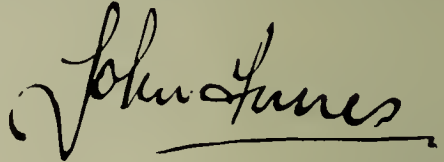
This Report taken overall shows a gradual speed-up of the machinery after the limitations imposed by war-time conditions. It also shows that the general picture of the health of the school child of to-day is a satisfactory one. It is not to be expected that the changeover from war-time to peace-time working can be other than gradual and still more that the new and extended duties imposed by the Education Act, 1944, can be suddenly and completely established.

Improvement in the staffing position has been achieved although more will have to be done in this direction in due course. At the present time the most severe limitation upon the service is caused by inadequate clinic premises. Although the deficiencies of the present premises have been realised for some time, the obtaining of new and more satisfactory premises is not an easy matter, while new building is almost impossible and while there is such a big demand from almost every direction for any suitable premises conveniently situated in the centre of the town.

It must, however, be borne in mind that without adequate accommodation, staff, however augmented, cannot increase its results or widen its activities.

In spite of these drawbacks it is hoped that next year's Report will show further steps towards improvements which are the aim of the new Act.

Once again I am glad to have the opportunity of recording my appreciation of the work done by the medical, dental and nursing staff of the School Medical Service and to acknowledge the assistance which the Department receives from the Director of Education and the Schools Medical Services Sectional Committee of the Education Committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Medical Officer of Health and
School Medical Officer.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
ROCHDALE,

27th May, 1947.

TABLE I.

Medical Inspection and Treatment Returns**Year ended 31st December, 1946.**

Medical Inspections of Children attending Primary and Secondary Schools.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections :—

Entrants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	305
Second Age Group	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,164
Third Age Group	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	809
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,278
Number of other Routine Inspections...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	298
Grand Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,576

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections and Re-Inspections ... 3,595

TABLE II.

**Classification of the Nutrition of Children Inspected during the year
in the routine age-groups**

Number of Children Inspected	A. (Excellent)		B. (Normal)		C. (Slightly subnormal)		D. (Bad)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2,576	95	3.69	2,369	91.96	110	4.27	2	0.08

TABLE III.

GROUP I.—Minor Ailments (excluding uncleanness).Total Number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year under
the Authority's Scheme : 5,224.

GROUP II.—Defective Vision and Squint.

						Under the Authority's Scheme
Errors of Refraction (including squint) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	563
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	—
Total ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	563
<hr/>						
No. of children for whom spectacles were :—						
(a) Prescribed ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	546
(b) Obtained ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	438

GROUP III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

Received Operative Treatment ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	187
Received other forms of Treatment ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	558
Total number ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	745

TABLE IV.—Dental Inspection and Treatment.

(1) Number of Children inspected by the Dentist—							
(a) Routine age-groups ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	9137
(b) Specials ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	379
(c) TOTAL (Routine and Specials) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	9516
<hr/>							
(2) Number found to require treatment ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	3868
(3) Number actually treated... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2194
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	3091
(5) Half-days devoted to—Inspection ... ..	...	101					
Treatment ... ..	...	667	Total ... ..	...	...	...	768
(6) Fillings—Permanent teeth ... ..	...	2785					
Temporary teeth ... ..	...	272	Total ... ..	...	...	...	3057
(7) Extractions—Permanent teeth ... ..	...	161					
Temporary teeth ... ..	...	1321	Total ... ..	...	...	...	1482
(8) Administrations of General anæsthetics for extractions ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	195
(9) Other operations	Permanent teeth	575					
Temporary teeth	529	Total ... ..	...	...	...	...	1104

TABLE V.—Verminous Conditions.

Average number of visits per school made during the year by the									
School Nurses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School									
Nurses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14324
Number of individual children found unclean								...	1342

TABLE VI.—Blind and Deaf Children.

No. of totally, or almost, blind and deaf children who are not at the present time receiving education suitable for their special needs. The return should relate to all such children resident in the Authority's area.

	At a Public Elementary School	At an Institution other than a Special School	At no School or Institution
Blind Children...	—	—	—
Deaf Children ...	—	—	—

